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THE

# BEAUTIES

### BIOGRAPHY:

CONTAINING THE

LIVES of the most ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONS
Who have flourished in

GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, And other Parts of Europe,

#### EITHER AS

POETS, HISTORIANS, PHILOSOPHERS, SOLDIERS, or DIVINES, POLITICIANS.

In which all superstuous Matter is avoided, and every thing Interesting, Entertaining, or Curious, carefully preserved.

Extracted from the BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA, BAILE'S DICTIONARY, and other valuable WORKS,

For the Instruction of

#### YOUTH OF BOTH SEXES,

And calculated to inspire them with a Love of Virtue, and create a Spirit of Emulation absolutely necessary to those who would wish to arrive at any Degree of Superiority in their different Professions, or Amusements.

#### VCL. I.

#### LONDON:

Printed for G. KEARSLEY, at No. 46, near Serjeant's
Inn, in Fleet-street.

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Entered at Stationers Hall.

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### PREFACE.

DIOGRAPHY is perhaps the D most entertaining, and at the fame time improving study of all others. It is peculiarly adapted to the Young Mind, when just opening to reflection, and when the judgement begins to form .- It is at that period we generally adopt fuch mode of conduct as continues to have great influence over us during the remainder of our lives; it is then too, the mind is most active, and is particularly zealous in every pursuit, when also example is most apt to make a lively and permanent impresfion upon us. Biography represents the actions which have been most

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remarkable in the lives of illustrious Men, and confequently must attract the attention of Young People especially: the interesting chain of events must insure their perseverance; and the conspicuous figure, made by the subject of their enquiry, will necessarily excite their emulation. The business of the Biographer is, to intermix fuch observations as point out particularly the Virtues, and to render them fo striking, as to captivate the Young Mind, and urge him to a diligent imitation of them; at the same time to reprobate the Vices, which should appear so deformed as to become difgusting. The good effect of exhibiting extraordinary Characters to the World, has been well understood amongst the Antients as well as the Moderns. Plutarch has given us a masterly performance in that way: But

But his work, and most others of that kind, are too voluminous, and more circumstantial than is requifite for young People, who do not reap the greatest advantage from dwelling long on the same subject. Their minds and attention are best engaged by striking objects, which do not remain long enough before them to weary, but which are fo important as to make a strong impression upon the memory. These confiderations induced the Author to collate a Biography, upon a smaller scale than has been undertaken hitherto, intending it more immediately for the use of Schools. With this view he has had particular regard to intermix fuch Moral Reflections as are calculated to improve the Young Reader's heart, while the information conveyed will advantage his head. Much pains has been taken to procure

#### iv PREFACE

cure the most authentic materials, and also to comprise them in as small a bulk as possible. How far he has been successful, must be submitted to the candid Reader.



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## BIOGRAPHY.

#### JOSEPH ADDISON, Esq.

HIS very great ornament to the age he lived in, his own country in particular, and to the cause of polite literature in general, was fon of the Rev. Dr. Launcelot Addison, who afterwards became Dean of Litchfield and Coventry, but at the time of his fon's birth was rector of Milefton, near Ambrosbury, Wilts, at which place the subject of our present consideration received his vital breath, on the first day of May 1672. He was very early fent to school to Ambrosbury, being put under the care of the Rev. Mr. Naish, then master of that school: from thence, as soon as he had received the first rudiments of literature, he Vol. I. was

was removed to Salifbury school, taught by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, and after that to the Charter-house, where he was under the tuition of the learned Dr. Ellis .- Here he first contracted an intimacy with Mr. Steele, afterwards Sir Richard, which continued invio-Jable till his death. - At about fifteen years of age he was entered of Queen's College, Oxford, and in about two years afterwards, through the interest of Dr. Lancaster, Dean of Magdalen's, elected into that college, and admitted to the degrees of batchelor and master of arts. --- While he was at the univerfity, he was repeatedly follicited by his father and other friends to enter into holy orders, which, although from his extreme modefty and natural diffidence he would gladly have declined, yet, in compliance with his father's defires, he was once very near concluding on; when having, through Mr. Congreve's means, become a great favourite with that universal patron of poetry and the polite arts, the famous Lord Halifax, that nobleman, who had frequently regretted that fo few men of liberal education and great abilides applied themselves to affairs of public bustness, in which their country might reap the advantage of their talents, earnestly persuaded him to lay aside this design, and as an encouragement

ragement for him so to do, and an indulgence to an inclination for travel, which showed itself in Mr. Addison, procured him an annual pension of 300 l. from the Crown, to enable him to make the tour of France and Italy.

On this tour then he set out at the latter end of the year 1699, did his country great honour by his extraordinary abilities, receiving in his turn every mark of esteem that could be shown to a man of exalted genius, particularly from M. Boileau, the samous French poet, and the Abbé Salvini, professor of the Greek tongue in the university of Florence; the sormer of whom declared that he sirst conceived an opinion of the English genius for poetry from Mr. Addison's Latin poems, printed in Muse Anglicanæ; and the latter translated into elegant Italian verse, his epistolary poem to Lord Halisax, which is esteemed a master-piece in its kind

In the year 1702, as he was about to return home, he was informed from his friends in England, by letter, that King William intended him the post of Secretary to attend the army under Prince Eugene in Italy. This was an office that would have been extremely acceptable to Mr. Addison; but his Majesty's death, which happened before he could get his appointment, put a stop to that, together with

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his pension.—This news came to him at Geneva; he therefore chose to make the tour of Germany in his way home, and at Vienna composed his treatise on Medals, which however did not make its appearance till after his death.—A different set of ministers coming to the management of affairs in the beginning of Queen Ann's reign, and consequently the interest of Mr. Addison's friends being considerably weakened, he continued unemployed and in obscurity till 1704, when an accident

called him again into notice.

The amazing victory gained by the great Duke of Marlborough at Blenh im, exciting a defire in the Earl of Godolphin, then Lord High Treasurer, to have it celebrated in verse, Lord Halifax, to whom that nobleman had communicated this his wish, recommended Mr Addison to him, as the only person who was likely to execute fuch a talk in a manner adequate to the subject; in which he succeeded fo happily, that when the poem he wrote, viz. the Campaign, was finished no farther than to the celebrated Simile of the Angel, the Lord High Treasurer was so delighted with it, that he immediately prefented the author with the place of one of the Commissioners of Appeals in the Excise, in the room of Mr. Locke, who had been just promoted to the board of trade.

In the year 170g, he attended Lord Halifax to Hanover, and in the succeeding year was appointed Under-secretary to Sir Charles Hedges, then Secretary of State; nor did he lose this post on the removal of Sir Charles, the Earl of Sunderland, who succeeded to that gentleman, willingly continuing Mr. Addison as his Under-secretary.

In 1700, Lord Wharton being appointed Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, nominated our author Secretary for that kingdom, the Queen at the same time bestowing on him also the post of Keeper of the Records in Ireland; but when, in the latter end of her Majesty's reign, the Ministry was again changed, and Mr. Addison expected no farther employment, he gladly fubinitted to a retirement, in which he formed a defign, which it is much to be regretted that he never had it in his power to put in execution, viz. the compiling a dictionary to fix the standard of the English language, upon the same kind of plan with the famous Dittionario della Crusca of the Italians: a work, in no language fo much wanted as in our own, and which, from fo-mafterly, fo elegant and correct a pen as this gentleman's. could not have failed being executed to the greatest degree of perfection. We have however the less reason to lament this loss, as the B 3 fame

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fame defign has fince been carried on, and brought to a maturity that reflects the highest honour on our country in general, and its author in particular; nor after this character can I, I think, have need to enter into a farther explanation, or even hint that I mean Mr. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language. What prevented Mr. Addifon's pursuing this defign, was his being again called out into public business; for on the death of the Queen, he was appointed Secretary to the Lords Justices; then again, in 1711, Secretary for Ireland; and on the Lord Sunderland's refignation of the lord-lieutenancy, he was made one of the Lords Commissioners of Trade.

In 1716, he married the Countess of Warwick, and in the ensuing year was raised to the high dignity of one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. The fatigues of this important post being too much for Mr. Addition's constitution, which was naturally not an extraordinary one, he was very soon obliged to resign it, intending for the remainder of his life to pursue the completion of some literary designs which he had planned out: but this he had no long time allowed him for the doing; an asthma, attended with a dropsy, carrying him off the stage of this world before he

he could finish any of his schemes. He departed this life at Holland-house, near Kenfington, on the 17th of June 1719, having then just entered into the 48th year, and lest behind him one only daughter.

As a Writer we need fay little of him, as the general esteem his works were, still are, and ever must be, held in, "pleads," as Shakefpeare fays, "like angels trumpet-tongu'd," in their behalf. As a Poet, his Cato in the dramatic, and his Campaign in the heroic way, will ever maintain a place among the first-rate works of either kind: yet I cannot help thinking even these excelled by the elegance, accuracy, and elevation of his profe writings; among which his papers in the Tatler, Spectator, and Guardian, hold a foremost rank, and must continue the objects of admiration, fo long as the English language retains its purity, or any authors who have written in it continue to be read. As a Man, it is imposfible to fay too much, and it would even extend beyond our present limits to say enough, in his praise, as he was in every respect truly valuable. In private life he was amiable; in public employment, honourable; a zealous patriot; faithful to his friends, and fleadfast to his principles; and the noble fentiments which every where breathe through his Cato.

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are no more than emanations of that love for his country, which was the conftant guide of all his actions. But, last of all, let us view him as a Christian, in which light he will appear still more exalted than in any other. And to this end nothing perhaps can more effectually lead us, than the relating an anecdote concerning his death, in the words of one of the best men, as well as the best writers, now living, who, in a pamphlet written almost entirely to introduce this little story, fpeaks of him in the following manner: "After a long and manly, but vain " ftruggle with his diftemper," fays he, " he "difmiffed his physicians, and with them all "hopes of life: but with his hopes of life he "dismissed not his concern for the living, but " fent for a youth nearly related, and finely " accomplished, but not above being the betse ter for good impressions from a dying friend: " he came; but life now glimmering in the so focket, the dying friend was filent. After a " decent and proper paule, the Youth faid, 54 Dear Sir I you fant for me : I believe, and I so hope that you have fine sommands: I shall bold " them most facred. May distant ages," proceeds this author, "not only hear, but feel the re-" ply ! Forcibly grasping the youth's hand, he s foftly faid, See in suhat peace a Christian can ce die.

" die. He spoke with difficulty, and soon "expired." The pamphlet from which this is quoted, is entitled, " Conjectures on Ori-" ginal Composition;" and, although published anonymous, was written by the great Dr. Edward Young: nor can I with more propriety close my character of Mr. Addison, than with this very gentleman's observations on the just-mentioned anecdote, when, after telling us, that it is to this circumstance Mr. Tickell refers, where, in his lines on this great man's death, he has these words,

He taught us how to live; and, oh! how high A price for knowledge! aught us how to die-

thus proceeds Dr. Young: " Had not this " poor plank been thrown out, the chief ar-" ticle of his glory would probably have been " funk for ever, and late ages had received but " a fragment of his fame. A fragment glori-" ous indeed, for his genius how bright! but " to commend him for composition, though " immortal, is detraction now, if there our en-" comium ends. Let us look farther, to that " concluding scene, which spoke human na-"ture not unrelated to the divine. To "that let us pay the long and large arrear of " our greatly posthumous applause." A little farther he thus terminates this noble encomium :

mium: "If powers were not wanting, a mo"nument more durable than those of marble
"should proudly rise in this ambitious page,
"to the new and far nobler Addison, than
"that which you and the public have so long,
and so much admired; nor this nation only,
for it is Europe's Addison, as well as ours;
though Europe know not half his titles to
her esteem, being as yet unconscious that
the dying Addison far outshines her Addison immortal." Having thus given some
account of the life and death of this great
man, nothing more remains in this place to
be done, but to give a list of his dramatic
pieces, which were so following three.

I. CATO, Tragedy.

2. The DRUMMER, Comedy.

3. ROSAMOND, Opera.

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#### ARTHUR AGARD.

THE fon of Clement Agard, of Toston, in Derbyshire, born A. D. 1540, bred to the Law, and made Deputy-clerk in the Exchequer-office, which place he held forty-five years. Passionately sond of antiquities, he made use of the advantages his place afforded him, in making large collections, and

in acquiring knowledge in those parts of this study, which are most abstruce, and perhaps productive of the greatest utility. In order to corroborate what has been infinuated of his abilities, we have both the testimony of Camden, who calls him "A most excellent Anti-" quary," and that of Selden, who speaks of him as " A man known to be the most pain-" ful, industrious, and fufficient in this branch " of study." To these testimonies we might add, the titles of his works, which are, 1st. The Antiquity, &c. of the High Court of Parliament. 2d. The Antiquities of Shires. of which he thinks Alfred was the author. 3d. The Land Measures of England. 4th. The Authority and Office of Heralds, 5th. The Antiquities and Privileges of Inns of Court, &c. 6th. The Diversity of the Names of this Island. All these were published by Hearne. The manufcripts he left behind him were, A learned and elaborate Treatife of the Use of the Dooms-day Book, together with twentyfix more volumes of manuscripts, he left to Sir Robert Cotton, in whose collection they are still preserved. After thus having spent his days in learned tranquillity, he caused a monument to be erected for himself and his wife, in Westminster Abbey, in his life time, where, after his death, which happened in 1615, he was interred. HENRY

### HENRY AINSWORTH.

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A N eminent Non-conformist Minister, who flourished the latter end of the fixteenth, and beginning of the seventeenth century. About the year 1500, he distinguished himself amongst the Brownists, which engaged him in fuch difficulties, that he was obliged to retire to Holland, and at Amsterdam erected a church, wherein he officiated, together with one Johnson. Having found a diamond of great value, he advertised it; and, when the owner, a Jew, demanded it, would not accept of any other acknowledgement, though very poor, but a conference with fome of his Rabbies on the prophecies relating to the Messiah. The Jew having promised him this gratification, but being unable to perform the engagement, it is supposed he had him poisoned, in order to save his credit.

His great skill in Hebrew, and his excellent commentaries on the Scriptures, particularly on the Pentateuch, are in universal esteem. Moreri goes so far as to say, that the learned Lightsoot is not a little indebted to him; and his works were received with respect, even by his adversaries; insomuch that it is not easy to produce any one oftener quoted, quoted, by the learned of all countries, than Dr. Ainsworth.

He was certainly a person of profound learning, well versed in the Scriptures, deeply read in Rabbinical learning, of a strong understanding, quick penetration, and indefatigable diligence. It must be confessed, that the hastiness of his temper, his contempt of Church government, and his proneness to dispute on trisles, were faults; but let the hand of Charity always draw the veil over the desects of the great; and let us rather imitate their excellencies, than glory in scrutinizing into their desiciencies.



#### WILLIAM ALAN,

SON of John Alan, born at Rossal, in Lancashire, in 1532, educated at Oriel College, Oxford, where he was chosen Fellow in 1550. In 1556 he was Principal of St. Mary Hall; but on Queen Elizabeth's accession to the crown, as he was a zealous Papist, lost all hopes of preferment, and on that account retired to the English College at Loraine, of which he was the principal support. Joined to a majestic presence, he had an easy Vol. I.

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affable deportment; and, with the greatest severity of manners, a mildness in speech and behaviour, which attracted the affection of all he conversed with. He wrote a Defence of Purgatory, and Prayers for the Dead, in opposition to Bishop Jewel; wherein he endeayours to show, that a Middle-state is acknowledged by all Protestants, and that Prayers for the Dead were in use from the earliest ages of the Church; which was answered by Dr. Fulke in 1580. The method Alan made use of to establish his point, was very proper to captivate the judgement; and his ftyle, which was pure and flowing, made his performance still more dangerous, and still more admired. His health decaying by too intenfe application, he came, even with the danger of his life, if we may be allowed the expreffion, to England for his recovery; but being too zealous in making profelytes, was discovered, and obliged to go abroad again for fafety. He was supposed to have been a great promoter of the invafion of these kingdoms by the Spanish Armada; and in 1668, composed his piece, which consisted of two parts, the first explaining the Pope's Bull against Queen Elizabeth, and the fecond exhorting the Nobility and People of England to revolt in favour of the Spaniards. This book made a great

a great noise, rendered him famous abroad and notorious at home; was by moderate Catholics condemned, and by fome ascribed to F. Parsons. In the last years of his life, he is faid to have altered his fentiments with respect to Government, to have lost his credit with the Catholics, and to have been poisoned by them on that account. As an English subject, he was a busy, enterprising, dangerous rebel; as a zealous Papist, an active, learned, and industrious person; as an author, for matter, method, wit, learning, and diction, one of the most considerable writers of his age; as his most inveterate enemies have allowed. But we conclude with Pope on another occafion,

".Oh! grant an honest fame, or grant me none."

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#### MIKEPHER ALPHERY,

BORN in Russia, of the Imperial line; but in the fourteenth century, his country being distracted with intestine commotions, he was sent to London, and consigned to the care of Mr. Bidel, a merchant, who sent him to Oxford. He went into orders, and had a small living given him in Huntingdonshire, rated at 101, in the King's books. In this C 2 place

place he performed his duty with great cheerfulness, and with so much content, that when invited to Russia by some friends, who offered to run any risque in recovering his rights, he refused them. In the year 1643 he felt the fury of the Fanatics, who not only turned him out of his living, but when he had prepared himself a flender meal, in a hut he had erected within the church-yard, deprived him of it, and kicked out his fire. At the Restoration he received his living, but being too old to difcharge the duties of it himself, settled a Curate in it, and foon after died at his fon's house at Hammersmith, in an advanced age. fingularity of a Russian Emperor's having been a country Minister in England, will afford such a large field for reflection, that any hint of that kind might be branded with the name of officious piolixity.

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#### ARCHIMEDES,

A GREEK, famous for his knowledge of mechanics, and inventor of several infiruments and machines, which are the wonder even of this enlightened age. His studies, like those of our worthy countryman Dr. Hales, had no other object than the good of mankind,

mankind, and were serviceable to his countrymen in particular. We need not mention his invention of a glass to burn the sleet of an enemy in the harbour, or the engines with which he annoyed the besiegers; but we must lament his sate, that, notwithstanding strict charge was given to preserve him, he should be killed in his study, as he was busied in some useful project, by a common soldier. The spiral pump for raising water, is called Archimedes's Screw.

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#### ARISTARCHUS,

A FAMOUS Grammarian, born in Samothracia, who flourished in the 156th Olympiad, was tutor to the son of Ptolemy Philometer; samous for criticism, and his revisal of Homer's works, which he is reported to have divided into books in the manner we have them at present: his exactness was great, but his decisions too magisterial with respect to the genuineness of the verses. Hence it is, that Horace and Cicero use his name to imply a severe critic in general; but moderns dropping the idea of his positiveness, apply it commonly, but improperly, to denote an exact one.

#### FRANCIS BACON,

ISCOUNT St. Alban's, and High Chancellor of England, in the reign of King James I. the glory and ornament of his age and nation, was the fon of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, was born at York-house in the Strand, on the 22d of January, 1567. In his tender years his abilities were fo remarkably conspicuous, that Queen Elizabeth, whose peculiar felicity it was to make a right judgement of merit, was so charmed with his folidity, and the gravity of his behaviour, that fhe would often call him her young Lord Keeper. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and made fuch incredible progress in his Rudies, that before he was fixteen, he had not only run through the whole circle of the liberal arts as they were then taught, but began to perceive those imperfections in the reigning philosophy, which he afterwards so effectually exposed, and thereby not only overturned that tyranny which prevented the progress of true knowledge, but laid the foundation of that free and useful philosophy, which has fince opened a way to fo many great and glorious discoveries. On his leaving the university, his

his father fent him to France, where, before he was nineteen years of age, he wrote a General View of the State of Europe; but Sir Nicholas dying, he was obliged fuddenly to return to England, when he applied himfelf to the study of the common law, at Gray's-Inn, and in 1588 was made one of the Queen's Counsel: but, notwithstanding her Majesty's early prepossession in his favour, he met with many obstacles to his preferment during her reign; for his enemies represented him as a man who, by employing too much of his time in pursuing other branches of knowledge, could not but neglect that of his profession; but his Maxims of Law, and Hiftory of the Alienation office, both of which works were written in this reign, though they were not published till after his decease, sufficiently show the injustice of these representations. He also distinguished himself, during the latter part of the Queen's reign, in the House of Commons, where he spoke often, and yet with fuch wisdom and eloquence, that his fentiments were generally approved by that august Assembly. But, notwithstanding the little regard paid by the Court to his merit, he ferved the Queen, as long as she lived, with zeal and fidelity, and after her decease, composed a Memorial on the Happiness of her Reign,

Reign, which did equal honour to her administration, and the capacity of its author. Upon the accession of King James, he was foon raifed to confider ble honours; for on the 23d of July, 1603, he was introduced to the King at Whitehall, and received the honour of Knighthood; in 1611, he was constituted Judge of the Marshal's Court; in 1613, he was made Attorney-General; in 1617, he was chosen Lord Keeper; and in 1618, Lord High Chancellor of England: the same year he was created Baron of Verulam in the county of Hertford; and in January, 1621, was advanced to the dignity of Viscount St. Alban's: but he was foon afterwards furprifed by a dreadful reverse of fortune; for that very year, complaints being made to the House of Commons of his Lordship's having received feveral bribes, those complaints were sent up to the House of Lords; and new ones being daily made of a like nature, things foon grew too high to be got over. The King was extremely affected, and even shed tears at the first news of this affair; and the Lord Chancellor had all the friendship and protection afforded him, that was either in the power of the Marquis of Buckingham, or even in the King his mafter, who actually, in hopes of foftening things a little, procured a recess ôf .cnisti

of Parliament; but this method having a quite contrary effect, his Lordship, instead of entering into a long and formal defence, threw himself upon the mercy of the House, by an humble submission, which he drew up in writing, and prevailed upon the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Charles I. to prefent to the House; and this confession and fubmission he afterwards explained and confirmed; on which he was fentenced to pay forty thousand pounds, to be imprisoned in the Tower during the King's pleasure, to be for ever incapable of any office or employment in the State, and never to fit in Parliament, or come within the verge of the Court. However, after a fhort confinement in the Tower, he was discharged, and afterwards received a full pardon from the King; yet the fault which thus tarnished the glory of this great man, is faid to have principally proceeded from his indulgence to his fervants, who made a corrupt use of it: however, his failings hurt only his cotemporaries, and were expiated by his fufferings; but his other virtues, his knowledge, and, above all, his zeal for mankind, will be felt while there are men, and while they have gratitude; the name of Sir Francis Bacon, or Lord Verulam, can never be mentioned but with admiration!

The

The Honourable Mr. Walpole, speaking of this great man, calls him the Prophet of Arts, which Newton was afterwards to reveal; and adds, that his genius and his works will be universally admired as long as science exists.

—" As long as ingratitude and adulation are "despicable, so long shall we lament the de"pravity of this great man's heart. Alas! "that he who could command immortal Fame, "should have stooped to the little ambition of "Power!"

His works, which are the glory of our nation, are collected together, and printed in four volumes folio; of these his Novum ORGANUM is esteemed the capital. In short, the Lord Verulam died at the Earl of Arundel's house, at Highgate, on the 9th of April; 1626, and was privately buried in the chapel of St. Mary's Church, within the precincts of Old Verulam, in the chancel of which church, Sir Thomas Meautis, once his fecretary, and afterwards clerk of the Council, caused a neat monument of white marble to be erected, with his Lordship's effigies sitting in a contemplative posture; under which is the following infcription: The relation of the second with

In the view of our Land, at no un

Baro de Verulam, Sancti Albani Vicecomes, Seu notioribus titulis, Scientiarum Lumen, Facundiæ Lex, Sic sedebat;

Qui, postquam omnia naturalis sapientiæ,
Et civilis arcana evolvisset,
Naturæ decretum explevit,
Composita solvantur;
Anno Domini, M.DC.XXVI.

Ætatis LXVI.
Tanti viri
Mem.
Thomas Meautis,

Superstitis cultor,
Defuncti admirator,
H. P.

In English thus:

Baron of Verulam, Viscount St. Alban's,
Or by more conspicuous titles,
Of Sciences the Light, of Eloquence the Law,
Sat thus;

Who, after all natural wisdom
And secrets of civil life he had unfolded,
Nature's law fulfilled,
Let Compounds be dissolved;

In the year of our Lord, M.DC.XXVI.

Of his age LXVI.

Of fuch a Man

That the memory might remain,

Thomas Meautis,

Living his attendant,

Dead his admirer,

Placed this Monument.

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# FRANCIS BEAUMONT and JOHN FLETCHER.

AS these two Gentlemen were, while living. the most inviolable friends, and inseparable companions; as in their works also they were united, the Orestes and Pylades of the poetical world; it would be a kind of injury done to the manes of their friendship, should we here, after death, separate those names which before it were found for ever joined .- For this reason we shall, under this fingle article, deliver what we have been able to collect concerning both; yet, for the fake of order, it will be proper first to take some notice of those particulars which separately relate to each. First then, as his name stands at the head of this article, we shall begin with

Mr.

#### Mr. FRANCIS BEAUMONT.

stembed on by a must of his fouries in

THIS Gentleman was descended from a very ancient samily of that name, seated at Grace Dieu in Leicestershire. His grandfather, John Beaumont, had been Master of the Rolls, and his father, Francis Beaumont, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. Nor was his descent less honourable on the side of his mother, whose name was Anne, the daughter of George Pierrepoint, of Home Pierrepoint, in the county of Nottingham, Esq; and of the same family from which the late Duke of Kingston derives his ancestry.

Our Poet, however, appears to have been only a younger fon, Jacob mentioning a brother of his by the title of Sir Henry Beaumont, though Cibber, in his Lives of the Poets, (vol. I. page 157) calls him Sir John Beaumont. He was born in the year 1585, and received his education at Cambridge, though at what college is a point which we have not been able to trace. He afterwards was entered a Student in the Inner Temple. It is not however apparent, that he made any great proficiency in the Law, that being a ftudy probably too dry and unentertaining to Vol. I.

be attended to by a man of his fertile and sprightly genius. And indeed we should scarcely be surprised to find that he had given no application to any fludy but Poetry, nor attended on any court but that of the Muses: but, on the contrary, our admiration might fix itself in the opposite extreme, and fill us with aftonishment at the extreme affiduity of his genius, and rapidity of his pen, when we look back on the voluminousness of his works, and then inquire into the time allowed him for them; works that might well have taken up a long life to have executed: for although, out of fifty-three plays, which are collected together as the labours of these united authors, Mr. Beaumont was concerned in much the greater part of them, yet he did not live to complete his thirtieth year, the King of Terrors fummoning him away in the beginning of March, 1615, on the 9th day of which he was interred in the entrance of St. Benedict's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. He left behind him only one daughter, Mrs. Frances Beaumont, who must have then been an infant, as she died in Leicestershire fince the year 1700. She had been possessed of several manuscript poems of her father's writing; but the envious Irish feas, which robbed the world of that invaluable treasure, the remaining part of Spenser's Fairy

Fairy Queen, deprived it also of these poems, which were lost in her voyage from Ireland, in which kingdom she had resided for some time, in the samily of the Duke of Ormond. Let us now proceed to our second author,

# MR. JOHN FLETCHER.

HIS Gentleman was not more meanly descended than his poetical colleague; his father, the Rev. Dr. Fletcher, having been first made Bishop of Bristol by Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards by the same monarch, in the year 1593, translated to the rich and honourable See of London. Our Poet was born in 1576, and was, as well as his friend, educated at Cambridge, where he made a great proficiency in his studies, and was accounted a very good scholar. His natural vivacity of wit, for which he was remarkable, foon rendered him a devotee to the Muses; and his close attention to their service, and fortunate connection with a genius equal to his own, foon raised him to one of the highest places in the temple of poetical fame. As he was born ten years before Mr. Beaumont, so did he alsofurvive him by an equal number of years; the general calamity of a plague, which happened in the year 1625, involving him in its great

great destruction, he being at that time forty-

nine years of age.

During the joint lives of these two great Poets, it appears that they wrote nothing feparately, except one little piece by each, which feemed of too trivial a nature for either to require affistance in, viz. The Faithful Shepherd, a Pastoral, by Fletcher, and the Masque of Gray's-Inn Gentlemen, by Beaumont. Yet what share each had in the writing or defighing of the pieces thus composed by them jointly, there is no possibility of determining. It is, however, generally allowed, that Flotcher's peculiar talent was wit, and Beaumont's. though much the younger man, judgement. Nay, fo extraordinary was the latter property in Mr. Beaumont, that it is recorded of the great Ben. Jonson, who seems, moreover, to have had a fufficient degree of felf-opinion of his own abilities, that he constantly, so long as this gentleman lived, submitted his own writings to his censure, and, as it is thought, availed himself of his judgement, at least in the correcting, if not even in the contriving of all his plots. It is probable, therefore, that the forming the plots, and contriving the conduct of the fable, the writing of the more ferious and pathetic parts, and lopping the redundant branches of Fletcher's wit, whose luxu-

luxuriance, we are told, frequently stood in need of castigation, might be in general Beaumont's portion in the work; while Fletcher, whose conversation with the Beau Monde, (which indeed both of them, from their births and flations in life, had ever been accustomed to) added to the volatile and lively turn he posfessed, rendered him penfectly master of dia+ logue and polite language, might execute the defigns formed by the other, and raise the superstructure of those lively and spirited scenes which Beaumont had only laid the foundation of; and in this he was fo fuccessful, that though his wit and raillery were extremely keen and poignant, yet they were at the same time fo perfectly genteel, that they used rather to please than disgust the very persons on whom they seemed to reflect. Yet, that Fletcher was not entirely excluded from a share of the conduct in the drama, may be gathered from a story related by Winstanley, viz. that our Bards having concerted the rough draught of a tragedy over a bottle of wine at a tavern, Fletcher faid, he would undertake to kill the king; which words being overheard by the waiter, who had not happened to have been witness to the context of their conversation, he lodged an information of treason against them; but on their explanation of it, The second D 3 only

only to mean the destruction of a theatrical monarch, their loyalty moreover being unquestioned, the affair ended in a jest.

On the whole, the works of these Authors have undoubtedly very great merit, and fome of their pieces deservedly stand on the list of the present ornaments on the theatre. The plots are ingenious, intereffing, and well managed, the characters firongly marked, and the dialogues fprightly and natural: yet there is in the latter a coarseness which is not suitable to the politeness of the present age, and a fondness of repartee, which frequently runs into obscenity, and which we may suppose was the vice of that time, fince even the delicate Shakespeare himself is not entirely free from it; but, as these Authors have more of that kind of wit than the last-mentioned Writer. it is not to be wondered if their works were. in the licentious reign of Charles II. preferred to his. Now, however, to the honour of the present tafte be it spoken, the tables are entirely turned; and while Shakespeare's immortal works are our constant and daily fare, those of Beaumont and Fletcher, though delicate in their kind, are only occasionally served up: and even then great pains is ever taken to clear them of that fumet which the baut gout of their cotemporaries confidered as their **fupremest** 

supremest relish, but which the more undepraved taste of ours has been justly taught to look on as what it really is, no more than a corrupted and unwholesome taint.

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### MRS. APHARA OR APHRA BEHN.

COME kind of a dispute has arisen in re-D gard to this Lady's christian name, in consequence of Langbaine's having attributed that of Aftræa to her as a real name, which was indeed no more than a poetical one, by which fhe was known and addressed by her cotemporaries. She was a gentlewoman by birth, being defeended from a very good family, whose residence was in the city of Canterbury. She was born fome time in Charles the First's reign, but in what year is uncertain. Her father's name was Johnson, who, through the interest of the Lord Willoughby, to whom he was related, being appointed Lieutenant General of Surinam, and fix and thirty Islands, undertook a journey to the West Indies, taking with him his whole family, among whom was our Poetefs, at that time very young. Mr. Johnson died in the voyage; but his family reaching Surinam, fettled there for some years.

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- Here it was that the learned the history of. and acquired a personal intimacy with, the American Prince Oroonoko, and his beloved Imoinda, whose adventures she herself so pathetically related in her celebrated Novel of that name, and which Mr. Southerne afterwards made fuch an admirable use of, in making it the ground-work of one of the best tragedies in the English language. Her intimacy with this Prince, and the interest she took in his concerns, added to her own youth and beauty, afforded an opportunity to the ill-natured and censorious to accuse her of a nearer connection with him than that of friendship. This, however, a Lady of her acquaintance, who has prefixed fome Memoirs of her Life to an edition of her Novels, takes great pains, and, I think, very much to the purpose, to acquit her of. On her return to London, she became the wife of one Mr. Behn, a merchant, refiding in that city, but of Dutch extraction. How long he lived after their marriage, is not very apparent, probably not very long; for her wit and abilities having brought her into high estimation at court, King Charles II. fixed on her as a proper person to transact fome affairs of importance abroad, during the course of the Dutch war. To this purpose she went over to Antwerp, where, by her intrigues

intrigues and gallantries, she so far crept-into the fecrets of State, as to answer the ends proposed by sending her over. Nay, in the latter end of 1666, she, by means of the influence she had over one Vander Albert, a Dutchman of eminence, whose heart was warmly attached to her, she wormed out of him the defign formed by De Ruyter, in conjunction with the family of the De Witts, of failing up the Thames, and burning the English ships in their harbours, which they afterwards put in execution at Rochester. This she immediately communicated to the English Court; but, though the event proved her intelligence to be well grounded, yet it was at that time only laughed at; which, together probably with no great inclination shown to reward her for the pains the had been at, determined her to drop all farther thoughts of political affairs, and, during the remainder of her stay at Antwerp, to give herfelf up entirely to the gaieties and gallantries of the place. Vander Albert continued his addresses, and after having made some unsuccessful attempts to obtain the possession of her person on easier terms than matrimony, at length confented to make her his wife; but while he was preparing at Amsterdam for a journey to England with that intent, a fever carried him off, and left her

her free from any amorous engagements. She was also strongly sollicited by a very old man, of the name of Van Bruin, at whose expence she diverted herself for a time, and then rejected him with that ridicule which his abfurd addresses justly merited. In her voyage back to England, she was very near being lost, the veffel she was in being driven on the coast by a storm, but happening to founder within fight of land, the passengers were, by the timely affiftance of boats from the shore, all fortunately preserved .--- From this period she entirely devoted her life to pleasure and the Muses. Her works are extremely numerous, and all of them have a lively and amorous turn. It is no wonder, then, that her wit should gain her the esteem of Mr. Dryden, Southerne, and other men of genius, as her beauty, of which in her younger part of life she possessed a great share, did the love of those of gallantry. Nor does she appear to have been any stranger to the delicate fensations of that passion, as appears from some of her letters to a gentleman, with whom she corresponded under the name of Lycida, and who feems not to have returned her flame with equal ardour, or received with that rapture her charms might well have been expected to command. Her works, as I have observed, were

were very numerous, confisting of plays,

novels, poems, letters, &c.

As to the character her plays should maintain in the records of Dramatic History, it will be difficult to determine, fince their faults and perfections stand in strong opposition to each In all, even in the most indifferent of her pieces, there are strong marks of genius and understanding. Her plots are full of bufiness and ingenuity, and her dialogue sparkles with the dazzling luftre of genuine wit, which every where glitters among it: but then she has been accused, and that not without great justice, of interlarding her comedies with the most indecent scenes, and giving an indulgence in her wit to the most indelicate expresfions. To this accusation she has herself made fome reply, in the Preface to the Lucky Chance; but the retorting the charge of prudery and preciseness on her accusers, is far from being a sufficient exculpation of herself. The best, and perhaps the only true excuse that can be made for it, is, that although she might herself have as great an aversion as any one to loofe scenes or too warm descriptions. yet, as she wrote for a livelihood, she was obliged to comply with the corrupt tafte of the times. And, as she was a woman, and naturally, moreover, of an amorous complexion,

plexion, and wrote in an age and to a court of gallantry and licentiousness, the latter circumftances, added to her necessities, compelled her to indulge her audience in their favourite depravity; and the former, affifted by a rapid flow of wit and vivacity, enabled her to to do; fo that both together have given her plays the loofe caft, which it is but too ap-

parent they possess.

Her own private character we shall give in the words of one of her female companions, who, in the memoirs before mentioned, prefixed to her novels, spoke of her thus; "She " was," fays this lady, " of a generous, hu-" mane disposition, something passionate, very se ferviceable to her friends in all that was in her power, and could fooner forgive an in-" jury than do one. She had wit, humour, er good-nature, and judgement: she was mistress of all the pleasing arts of conversation: of the was a woman of fense, and consequently a lover of pleasure. For my part, I knew "her intimately, and never faw ought unbe-" coming the just modesty of our sex, though " more gay and free than the folly of the precise will allow."

After a life intermingled with numerous disappointments, which a woman of her sense and merit ought never to have met with, and

in the close of a long indisposition, Mrs. Behn departed from this world on the 16th of April, 1689, and lies interred in the cloister of Westminster Abbey, under a blue marble stone, against the first pillar in the east ambulatory, with the following inscription:

MRS. APHRA BEHN, Died April the 16th, 1680.

Here lies a proof, that wit can never be
Defence enough against mortality.
Revived by Tho. Waine, in respect to so bright a genius.

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#### BENEDICT,

A FAMOUS Abbot in the 7th century, descended of a noble family under the Saxons, and flourished under Oswi and Egfrid, Kings of Northumberland. In his 25th year he abandoned all temporal views, in order to devote himself to religion; and, by his frequent voyages, did not a little contribute to introduce the Polite Arts into this island. Architecture, Painting, Music, and other arts, received great improvements from those artists he brought over with him from Rome and France; and what added no small commendation to him was, that all his embellishments

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ments were appropriated to the service of the Church. Chanting in choirs was introduced by him in 678. He founded two very considerable monasteries, lived an exemplary life, and enjoyed one quality seldom to be met with in a Saint, a refined taste joined to a remarkable austerity.



### ROBERT CAPEL,

A N eminent Divine, born at Gloucester In the year 1586, descended of a good family in Herefordshire, and nearly related to the Capels, Lords of Esfex. He was entered at Magdalen College, Oxford, and, as a Divine, celebrated not only for his learning, his manner of preaching, his exemplary life, but likewise for the plainness with which he delivered the most obscure truths, the ftrength with which he afferted the peculiar doctrines of Protestants, and the humility with which he enjoyed the most eminent talents; so that his favourite expression of another person, might be properly applied to him; "He was " as learned a man as any in the world, as godly as learned, and as humble as godly." Being not under a necessity of taking the revenue of his benefice, he showed such an ex-H. H. ample

ample of generolity, as is scarcely credible: to remit his dues, he thought, might injure his! fuccessors; he therefore received them, but paid them to an indigent Clergyman, to enable him to support himself. His usual expression was, that, if God thought fit, a fudden death, was better than a lingering one; and what he approved of, he experienced; for, on a Sunday, Sept. 21, 1656, after he had repeated his fermons at night to his family, according to his cuftom, read a chapter, faid his prayers, and lay down in his bed, he expired before he had finished his ejaculations, and fled to Heaven with the praises of God in his mouth.

O envied death!

## Mrs. SUSANNA CENTLIVRE.

HIS Lady was daughter of one Mr. Freeman, of Holbeach in Lincolnshire; who, although he had been possessed of no inconsiderable estate, yet, being a Dissenter, and a zealous Parliamentarian, was at the time of the Restoration extremely persecuted, as were also the family of his wife, who was daughter of Mr. Markham, a gentleman of a good estate at Lynn Regis in Norfolk, but of the same political principles with Mr. Freeman; fo that his estate was conficated, and or million

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he himself compelled to fly to Ireland. How long he staid there I have not been able to trace, nor whether our Authoress, who, from a comparison of concurring circumstances, I imagine must have been born about 1680. drew her first breath in that kingdom, or in England. These are particulars all her historians have been filent in regard to; yet I am apt to conjecture that she was born in Ireland, as I think it probable her mother might not return to her native country, till after the death of her husband, which happened when this girl was only three years old. Be this as it will, we find her left to the wide world by the death of her mother also, before she had completed her twelfth year. Whincop relates a romantic ftory of her in a very early period of her life, which, although he feems mistaken in some parts of her history, (at least either he or Jacob must have been so) having made her father furvive her mother, and even to have married again before his death; yet, as he feems to have taken pains in collecting many circumftances of her life which are no where else related, I cannot think myself authorised entirely to omit it. He tells us, that after her father's death, finding herself very ill treated by her step-mother, she determined, though almost destitute of money and every other neceffary,

ceffary, to go up to London to feek a better fortune than what the had hitherto experit enced; that, as the was proceeding on her journey on foot, the was met by a young gentleman from the University of Cambridge, (whose name by the way he informs us of, and who was no other than the afterwards wellknown Anthony Hammond, Efq.) who was forextremely Bruck with her youth and beauty, and fo affected with the diffress which her circumftances naturally declared in her countenance, that he fell instantly in love with her, and inquiring into the particulars of her story, foon prevailed on her inexperienced innocence to feize on the protection he offered her, and go with him to Cambridge, where, equipping. her in boy's cloaths, he introduced her to his intimates at college as a relation who was come down to fee the University, and pals fome time with him there; and that they continued this intercourse for some months. till at length, fated perhaps with poffession, or perhaps afraid that the affair would be difcovered at the University, he persuaded her to come to Landan, providing her however with a confiderable fum of money, and a letter of recommendation to a gentlewoman of his acquaintance in town, fealing the whole with a promife, which however it thoes not appear. e ella est he

he ever performed, of fpeedily following her to London, and there renewing their amorous intercourse.—If this story is true, it must have happened when she was extremely young; Whincop, as well as the other writers, acknowledging, that she was married, in her fixteenth year, to a nephew of the late Sir Stephen Fox: but that gentleman not living with her above a twelvemonth, her wit and beauty foon procured her a fecond hufband, whose name was Carrol, and who was an officer in the army; but he having the misfortune to be killed in a duel within about a year and half after their marriage, she became a second time a widow. This loss was a severe affliction to her, as she appears to have fincerely loved this gentleman. Partly perhaps to divert her melancholy, but chiefly, it is probable, for the fake of a support, she now applied to her pen, and became a votary to the Muses, and it is under this name of Carrol that some of her earlier pieces were published. Her first attempt was in Tragedy, in a play called the Perjured Husband; yet her natural vivacity afterwards leading her more to Comedy, we find but one more attempt in the Buskin among eighteen dramatic pieces which she afterwards wrote. Such an attachment she feems to have had to the Theatre, that she even

even became herself a Performer, though it is probable of no great merit, as she never rose above the station of a Country Actress. However, she was not long in this way of life; for in 1706, performing the part of Alexander the Great, in Lee's Rival Queens, at Windfor, where the Court then was, fhe wounded the heart of one Mr. Joseph Centlivre, Yeoman of the Mouth, or, in other words, principal Cook to her Majesty, who soon after married her; and after passing several years happily together, she died at his house in Spring-Garden, Charing-Crofs, on the 1st of December, 1723, and was buried in the parish of St. Martin in the Fields. Thus did fhe at length happily close a life, which at its first setting out was overclouded with difficulty and misfortune. She for many years enjoyed the intimacy and efteem of the most eminent wits of the time, viz. Sir Richard Steele, Mr. Row, Budgell, Farquhar, Dr. Sewell, &c. and very few authors received more tokens of efteem and patronage from the Great; to which, however, the confideration of her fex, and the power of her beauty, of which she possessed a considerable share, might, in some degree, contribute. Her disposition was good-natured, benevolent, and friendly; and her conversation, if not what could be called

called witty, was at least sprightly and entertaining. Her family had been warm partyfolks, and the feemed to inherit the fame difposition from them, maintaining the frictest attachment to Whig principles, even in the most dangerous times, and a most zealous regard for the illustrious House of Hanover. This party-spirit, however, which breathes even in many of her dramatic pieces, procured her fome friends and many enemics. As a Writera it is no very easy thing to estimate her rank; It must be allowed that her plays do not abound with wit, and that the language of them is fometimes even poor, enervate, incorrect, and: puerile: but then her plots are bufy and well. conducted, and her characters in general natural and well marked: but as plot and charafter are undoubtedly the body and foul of Comedy; and language and wit, at best, but the cleathing and external ornaments: it is certainly less excusable to show a deficiency in the former than in the latter wand the fuccess of fome of Mrs, Centlivre's plays plainly evince, that the first will flrike the minds of an audience more powerfully than the laft; fince her comedy of the Bufy Body, which all the players had decried before its appear. ance, which Mr. Wilks had even for a time absolutely resused to play in, and which the audience

audience came prejudiced against, roused their attention in despite of that prejudice, and forced a run of thirteen nights; while Mr. Congreve's Way of the World, which perhaps contains more true intrinfic wit, and unexceptionable accuracy of language, than any dramatic piece ever written, brought on the stage with every advantage of recommendation, and when the Author was in the height of reputation, could scarcely make its way at all. Nay, I have been confidently affured, that the very fame great Actor I mentioned just now, made use of this remarkable expresfion with regard to her Bold Stroke for a Wife. viz. " That not only her Play would be "damn'd, but she herself be damn'd for "writing it." Yet we find it ftill standing on the lift of acting plays, nor is it ever performed without meeting with the approbation of the audience; as do also her Busy Body, Wonder, and Artifice. That Mrs. Centlivre was very perfectly acquainted with life, and closely read the minds and manners of mankind, no one I think can doubt, who reads her comedies: but what appears to me the most extraordinary is, when we confider her history, the disadvantages she must have laboured under by being so early left to buftle with the world, and that all the education she could

### 46 SUSANNA CENTLIVRE

have had must have been owing to her own application and affiduity; when, I fay, we confider her as an absolutely self-cultivated genius, it is aftonishing to find the traces of fo much reading and learning as we meet with in many of her pieces, fince, for the drawing of the various characters the has prefented us with, the must have perfectly understood the French, Dutch, and Spanish languages, all the provincial dialects of her own, and fomewhat even of the Latin, fince all thefe fhe occasionally makes use of, and whenever she does so, it is constantly with the utmost propriety and the greatest accuracy. In a word, I cannot help giving it as my opinion, that, if we do not allow her to be the very first of our female writers, she has but one above her, and may justly be placed next to her predecessor in dramatic glory, the great Mrs. Belin. iv

She wrote, and of a or an amailes out to

Tr. Artifice, Comedy, Solute A long ashno W

2. Baffet Table, Comedy.

3. Beau's Duel, Comedy.

4. Bickerstaff's Burying, Farce.

5. Bold Stroke for a Wife, Comedy.

6. Bufy Body, Comedy.

- 7. Cruel Gift, Tragedy! angatacyballit of

8. Gamester, Comedy. 10 3 100 yd nen

9. Gotham Election, Farce.

10. Love

- 10. Love at a Venture, Comedy.
- Love's Contrivances, Comedy.
- 12. Man's Bewitched, Comedy.
  - 13. Marplot, Comedy.
  - 14. Perjured Husband, Tragedy.
  - Perplex'd Lovers, Comedy.
    - 16. Platonic Lady, Comedy, and ballen
  - in. Stolen Heires, Comedy.
  - 18. Wife Well Managed, Farce.
    - 19. Wonder, Comedy.

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### WILLIAM CONGREVE, Esq.

THIS Gentleman was descended from the ancient family of the Congreves, of Congreve in Staffordshire, his father being fecond fon to Richard Congreve of that place. Some authors, and in particular Sir James Ware, contended for his having been born in Ireland; but, as Jacob, who was particularly acquainted with him, and who in his preface acknowledges his obligations to Mr. Congreve for his communication of what related to himfelf, has absolutely contradicted that report, I shall on his authority, which I consider to be the fame as Mr. Congreve's own, fix the fpot of his nativity at a place called Bardía, not far from Leeds in Yorkshire, being part

of the estate of Sir John Lewis, his great uncle by his mother's fide. It is certain, however, that he went over to that kingdom very young; for his father being only a younger brother, and provided for in the army by a commission on the Irish establishment, he was compelled to undertake a journey thither in confequence of his command: which commission he afterwards parted with to accept of the management of a confiderable estate belonging to the Burlington family, which fixed his refidence there. However, though he fuffered this fon to receive his first tincture of letters in the great school at Kilkenny, and afterwards to complete his claffical learning under the direction of Dr. Ash, in the University of Dublin; yet, being desirous that his studies should be directed to profit as well as improvement, he fent him over to England foon after the Revolution, and placed him as a student in the Temple. The dry, plodding study of the law, however, was by no means fuitable to the fprightly volatile genius of Mr. Congreve; and therefore, though he did not want approbation in those studies to which his genius led him, yet he did not even attempt to make any proficiency in a fervice which he was probably conscious he should make no figure in. Excellence and perfection were what,

what, it is apparent, he laid down as his principle from the very first, to make it his aim to acquire; for in the very earliest emanation of his genius, and a very early one indeed it was, viz. his novel called Love and Duty Reconciled, written when he was not above feventeen years of age, he had not only endeavoured at, but indeed fucceeded in, the presenting to the world, not a mere novel according to the tafte and fashion then prevailing, but a piece which should point out, and be in itself a model of, what novels ought to be : and, though this cannot itself be with propriety called a dramatic work, yet he has fo firietly adhered to dramatic rules in the composition of it, that his arriving at fo great a degree of perfection in the regular drama, in fo short a time afterwards, is hardly to be wondered at. His first play was the Old Batchelor, which was the amusement of some leisure hours during a flow recovery from a fit of illness, soon after his return to England, and was in itself fo perfect, that Mr. Dryden, on its being shown to him, declared he had never in his life feen fuch a first play; and that great Poet having, in conjunction with Mr. Southerne, and Arthur Manwaring, Efq; given it a flight revifal, Dr. Davenant, who was the manager of Drury-Lane Theatre, and was delighted Vol. I. both

both with the piece and its author, brought it on the stage 1693, where it met with fuch universal approbation, that Mr. Congreve, though he was but nineteen years of age at the time of his writing it, became now confidered as a prop to the declining stage, and a rising genius in dramatic poetry. -- The next year he produced the Double Dealer, which, for what reason indeed, I know not, did not meet with fo much success as the former. The merit of his first play, however, had obtained him the favour and patronage of Lord Halifax, and some peculiar marks of distinction from Queen Mary, on whose death, which happened in the close of this year, he wrote a very elegant Elegiac Pastoral. In 1605, when Betterton opened the new House in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, Mr. Congreve joining with him, gave him his comedy of Love for Love, with which the Company began their campaign, and which met with fuch fuccefs, that they immediately offered the author a share in the management of the House, on condition of his furnishing them with one play yearly .- This offer he accepted; but whether through indolence, or that correctness which he looked on as necessary to his works, his Mourning Bride did not come out till 1697, nor his Way of the World till two years · wa

years after that. -- The indifferent fuccess this last-mentioned play, though an exceeding good one, met from the Public, completed that difgust to the Theatre, which a long contest with Jeremy Collier, who had attacked the immoralities of the English Stage, and more especially some of his pieces, had begun; and he determined never more to write for the stage. This resolution he punctually kept, and Mr. Dennis's observation on that point will, I am afraid, be found but too true, when he faid, " that Mr. Congreve " quitted the stage early, and that Comedy "left it with him," Yet, though he quitted dramatic writing, he did not lay down the pen entirely; but occasionally wrote many little pieces both in profe and verse, all of which stand on the records of literary fame.

It is very possible, however, that he might not soon have given way to this disgust, had, not the easiness of his circumstances rendered any subservience to the opinions and caprice of the town absolutely unnecessary to him; for his abilities having very early in life raised him to the acquaintance of the Earl of Halifax, who was then the Mecænas of the age, that nobleman, desirous of placing so promising a genius above the necessity of too hasty productions, made him one of the Commis-

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fioners for licenfing Hackney-coaches, or, according to Coxeter, a Commissioner of the Wine licence. He foon after bestowed on him a place in the Pipe-office, and not long after that gave him a place in the Customs, worth fix hundred pounds per annum. In the year 1718 he was appointed Secretary of Jamaica; so that, with all together, his income, towards the latter part of his life, was upwards of twelve hundred pounds a-year. Thus raised above dependence, it is no wonder he would no longer render himself subject to the capricious censures of impotent critics: and, had his poetical father, Mr. Dryden, ever been advanced to the fame circumstances, it is probable that his All for Love would not now have been esteemed the vent or his dramatic pieces; nor would he have been compelled, for a bare livelihood, to the drudgery of producing four plays in a space of time scarcely more than sufficient for forming the plot of one .- But to return to Congreve. The greatest part of the last twenty years of his life was spent in eafe and retirement, and he either did not, or affected not to give himself any trouble about reputation. Yet some part of that conduct might proceed from a degree of pride. T. Cibber, in his Lives of the Poets, vol. IV. p. 93. relates an anecdote of him, which I cannot

I cannot properly omit here. "When the " celebrated Voltaire," fays he, " was in Eng-"land, he waited upon Congreve, and paffed " him some compliments as to the reputation " and merit of his works. Congreve thanked "him, but at the same time told that in-" genious Foreigner, he did not choose to be "confidered as an Author, but only as a "private Gentleman, and in that light ex-" pected to be vifited. Voltaire answered, "that if he never had been any thing but a " private gentleman, in all probability he had " never been troubled with that visit; and " observes, in his own account of the transac-" tion, that he was not a little difgusted with " fo unseasonable a piece of vanity."

Towards the close of his life he was much afflicted with the gout, and making a tour to Bath, for the benefit of the waters, was unfortunately overturned in his chariot; by which it is supposed he got some inward bruise, as he ever after complained of a pain in his fide, and on his return to London, continued gradually declining in his health, till the 19th of Jan. 1729; when he died, aged 57, at his house in Surry Street, in the Strand, and on the 26th following was buried in Westminster Abbey, the pall being supported by persons of the first distinction.

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His.

### WILLIAM CONGREVE, Esq.

His dramatic pieces are feven in number, and their titles as follow :

- 1. Double Dealer, Comedy. 2. Judgement of Paris, Marque.
- 3. Love for Love, Comedy.
- 4. Mourning Bride, Tragedy.
- 5. Old Batchelor, Comedy.
- 6. Semele, Oratorio.
  - 7. Way of the World.

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#### SIR ROBERT COTTON,

ESCENDED from an ancient family of that name, which flourished long before the reign of Edward III. they took their name from Cotton, in the county palatine of Chefter. This great man was born the 22d of January, 1570, at Denton, near Connington, in Huntingdonshire; he studied at Trinity-College, Cambridge, and took his Batchelor of Arts degree in 1595. The noble collection of manuscripts for which this nation is abundantly indebted to him, was begun to be made in the eighteenth year of his age. The affiduity with which he profecuted the study of Antiquities, and the great dependence that all the great personages in Queen Elizabeth's, King James's and, King Charles's reigns, reigns, had on his knowledge in this branch of literature, was great; and the many curious subjects that were by them submitted to his. decision, must give us a favourable and high idea of his abilities: his generous defence of liberty in Religion, as well as the State, must attract the admiration of all true Englishmen; and the noble collection of manuscripts relating to the history and antiquities of this. kingdom, which was afterwards increased by his fon and grandfon, is a nobler maufoleum to his memory, than the Pyramids of Egypt are to its monarchs. It must be acknowledged, that there is no history of our nation extant, which does not owe all its value either to his writings, or collections.

When living, he was always ready to communicate; was careffed by all the learned and great, both at home and abroad; was a member of the Society of Antiquaries, both at its first institution, and revival; was looked on as. an oracle in points of antiquity; and when he died, in 1631, left all the lovers of learning in. grief for a loss which no person then living

could compensate.

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### SIR JOHN DENHAM.

HIS elegant Writer was the only fon of Sir John Denham, of Little Horsley, Knight, who was, at the time of our Author's birth, which happened in 1615, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland, and one of the Lords Justices of that kingdom: in consequence of which our Author was born in Dublin, but was brought over from thence at two years old, on the promotion of his father to the rank of Baron of the Exchequer in England. His grammatical learning he acquired in London, and in Michaelmas term, 1631, was removed from thence to Oxford, where he was entered a Gentleman Commoner of Trinity College; but, instead of showing any early dawnings of that genius which afterwards shone forth in him, he appeared a flow, dreaming young man, and one whose darling passion was gaming. Here he continued for three years, when, having paffed his examinations, and taken a degree as Batchelor of Arts, he came to London, and entered himself at Lincoln's Inn, where he applied pretty closely to the study of the law: yet his darling vice was still predominant, and he frequently found himself stripped to his last fhilling;

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shilling; by which he fo greatly displeased his father, that he was obliged, in appearance at least, to reform, for fear of being absolutely abandoned by him -On his death, however, being no longer reftrained by parental authority, he again gave way to gaming, and beingt a dupe to sharpers, foon fquandered feveral thousand pounds. In the latter end of 1641, however, to the aftonishment of every body, his genius broke forth in a full blaze of meridian brightness, in that justly celebrated and admired tragedy, the Sophy, and foon after shone again in his poem of Cooper's Hill .- In the same year he was pricked for High Sheriff for the county of Surry, and made Governor of Farnham Caftle for the

King; but being possessed of no great share of military knowledge, he presently quitted that post, and retired to his Majesty at Oxford. And now, the grand Rebellion being broke out in its full force, he showed the warmest attachment to the Royal Family, and, in the course of their unhappy affairs, became of signal service to them. In the year 1647, when the King had been delivered into the hands of the army, he undertook, on behalf of the Queen Mother, to gain access to his Majesty, which he found means to do by the assistance of Hugh Peters.—On this occa-

fion the King converfed with him, in an unreferved manner, with regard to his affairs, and intrusting him with nine cyphers, commanded him to flay privately in London, in order to receive all his letters to and from his correfpondents, all which were constantly decyphered and undecyphered by Mr. Cowley, at that time with the Queen Mother in France. This trust he performed with great punctuality and fafety for fome time, till at length, Mr. Cowley's hand being known, this affair was discovered, and Mr. Denham obliged to make his escape to France. In 1648 he was fent Ambassador, together with Lord Crofts, to Poland, where he succeeded so well as to bring back ten thousand pounds for the King. levied there on his Majesty's Scottish subjects. About 1652 he returned to England, and refided about a year at the Earl of Pembroke's at Wilton, having quite exhausted his own fortune, by his passion for gaming, and the expences he had been at during the civil war. It does not clearly appear what became of him between that time and the Restoration, though it is most probable he went over again to France, and refided there till King Charles the Second's return from St. Germain's to Jersey, when he was immediately appointed, without any follicitation, Surveyor General of all his Majesty's

Majesty's Buildings, and, at the coronation of that monarch, made Knight of the Bath.

On some discontent arising from a second marriage, he for a little time lost his senses, but on his recovery, continued in great esteem at court for his poetical abilities, especially with the King, who was fond of poetry, and during his exile used frequently to give Mr. Denham arguments to write on. This ingenious gentleman died at an office he had built for himself near Whitehall, March 10, 1668, etatis 53, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, leaving behind him, among the several works whereby his poetical same stands established, only one dramatic piece, viz.

The Sophy, a Tragedy.

As a Poet, we need only refer to the testimonials of many writers, particularly Dryden and Pope, in his favour.—As to his moral character, he has had no vice imputed to him but that of gaming; and although authors have been silent as to his virtues, yet if we may judge from his works, he was a good-natured man, and an easy companion: from his actions it appears, that he was one of strict honour and integrity, and, in the day of danger and tumult, of unshaken loyalty to the suffering interest of his Sovereign.

WILLIAM

## WILLIAM DERHAM,

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A MOST excellent Christian Philosopher, and Divine, was born at Stowton, near Worcester, in 1657. -In 1675 he was entered at Trinity College, Oxon, where his tutor was the learned Dr. Willes, father of the late Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. In 1678-9 he took his Batchelor's degree, by which time he had so diffinguished himself by his learning and other eminent qualifications. that Dr. R. Bathurst, then President of Trinity College, earnestly recommended him to Dr. Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury, by whose interest he was, when he entered into holy orders in 1681, made Chaplain to the Lady Dowager Grey, of Warke: In 1680 he was presented, by Mrs. Jane Bray, to the rectory of Upminster in Essex, worth 2001, per ann. and not more than fifteen miles from London. His proximity to the metropolis was subservient to the highest purposes of a scholar and a divine, and his retirement was employed in fludying the volumes of his Creator, the Scriptures, and the book of Nature. As a Natural Historian, no person ever made a greater figure; but as his studies in this branch had always the honour of God, the promotion

motion of religion, and the good of mankind for their guide, he richly deserved all the hohours which they prepared for him; and the notice taken of him by the Royal Society, the Arch-bishop of Canterbury, his late Majesty. and the University of Oxford, who prefented him with his Doctor's degree, were rather fo many evidences of his merit, than marks of honour. While true masculine and rational piety, unspotted reputation, or extensive learning, have any advocates, this gentleman's name must be held in veneration. As his private life was no less beneficial than his writings; as he was not only the teacher, but the example of his parishioners; and as he was not only a physician to their fouls, but their bodies likewise; he deserves no less praise as a man, than as an author: and as an author, his Physico-Theology, Astro-Theology, and curious pieces in the Philosophical Transactions. will show that he is, in that character, inferior to none.



### SIR FRANCIS DRAKE,

THE fon of Edmund Drake, a failor, and born near Tavistock, in 1545, was educated at the expence and under the care of Sir Vol. I.

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John Hawkins, his kinfman. He was one of the most distinguished naval heroes in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. To recite all his great and ferviceable actions, would require a volume. Thus much we must add, that he was a man, who might be faid to have a head to contrive, a heart to undertake, and a hand ready to execute, whatever promifed glory to himself, and good to his country. The most distinguishing action of his life, his voyage round the globe, gives us a fignal instance of fuch courage, intrepidity, fagacity, and difcretion, as scarcely seem to have met in one man before him: and, if we confider him as the great author of our navigation to the West and East Indies; as one who showed it practicable to act against the Spaniards, both by sea and land; as the introducer of tobacco into

ing the reputation of English sailors so high, that they were sought after and employed by all nations of the world; we may look on him as the remote cause of our grandeur, and the extensiveness of our commerce. As some account of his person and character may

this kingdom; as the promoter of the cheft at Chatham, for the relief of seamen wounded in the service of their country; and his rais-

of flature, but well fet, his chest open and broad,

Broad, his head very round, his hair of a fine brown, his beard full and comely, his eyes large and clear, his complexion fair, and his countenance fresh, cheerful, and engaging. As navigation had been his whole fludy, so he knew it thoroughly, and was perfect mafter of every science, especially astronomy, which could render him complete in the nautic art. Though he did not polish his speech by study, yet it was strong, nervous, concise, and, though not diffuse, eloquent, and captivating: and, to conclude his character with the words of Fuller, "He was a religious man towards "God and his houses, where he came, chaste " in his life, just in his dealings, true of his " word, and merciful to those which were un-" der him, hating nothing fo much as idle-" ness." Such was the character of this great man! See Campbell's Lives of the Admirals.

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## JOHN DRYDEN, Esq.

WAS the son of Erasmus Dryden, Esq; of Tichmarsh, and grandson of Sir Erasmus Dryden of Canonsbury, both in Northamptonshire; and was born, some time in the year 1631, at Oldwinkle, or Aldwinkle, near Oundle, in the said county; a village which,

as he himself informs us, belonged to the Earl of Exeter, and which was also famous for giving birth to the celebrated Dr. Thomas Fuller, the Historian. He received the rudiments of his grammar learning at Westminster school, under the learned Dr. Busby, and from thence was removed to Cambridge in 1650, being elected Scholar of Trinity College, of which he appears, by his Latin verses in the Epithalamia Cantabrigiens. 4to. 1662, to have been afterwards a Fellow .- Yet, in his earlier days, he gave no extraordinary indications of genius; for, even the year before he quitted the University, he wrote a poem on the death of Lord Hastings, which was by no means a prefage of that amazing perfection in poetical powers, which he afterwards possessed. His first play, viz. the Wild Gallants, did not appear till he was not much less than forty years of age, and then met with fuch indifferent fuccess, that, had not necessity afterwards compelled him to purfue the arduous task, the English stage had perhaps never been favoured with fome of its brightest ornaments. But to proceed more regularly. On the death of Oliver Cromwell, he wrote some heroic stanzas to his memory; but on the Restoration, being desirous of ingratiating himself with the new court, he wrote, first, a poem entitled Afrea Redux, and

and afterwards a Panegyric to the King on his Corronation .- In 1662, he addressed a poem to the Lord Chancellor Hyde, presented on New-year's-day; and in the same year, a Satire on the Dutch .- In 1668, appeared his Annus Mirabilis, which was an historical poem in celebration of the Duke of York's victory over the Dutch. These pieces at length obtained him the favour of the Crown, and Sir William D'Avenant dying the same year, Mr. Dryden was appointed to succeed him as Poetlaureat, --- About this time also his inclination for writing for the stage seems first to have shown itself; for, besides his concern with Sir William D'Avenant in the alteration of Shakespeare's Tempest, which was the last work that gentleman was engaged in, Mr. Dryden, in 1669, produced his Wild Gallants, a comedy. This, as I have before observed, met with very indifferent success; yet the author, not being discouraged by its failure, foon after gave the public his Indian Emperor. which finding a more favourable reception. encouraged him to proceed, and that with fuch rapidity, that, in the Key to the Duke of Buckingham's Rehearfal, he is recorded to have engaged himself by contract for the writing of four plays a year; and indeed, in the years 1679 and 1680, he appears to have ful-G 3 filled · Mastar .

filled that contract. To this unhappy necessity, which our Author law under, are to be attributed all those irregularities, those bombaftic flights, and fometimes even puerile exuberances, which he has been fo feverely cenfured for, and which, in the unavoidable hurry in which he wrote, it was impossible he fhould find time to revise, either for the lopping away or correcting. In 1679, there came out an Essay on Satire, said to be written jointly by Mr. Dryden and the Earl of Mulgrave, containing fome very severe reflections on the Earl of Rochester and the Dutchess of Portsmouth; and in 1681 Mr. Dryden published his Abfalom and Achitophel, in which the well-known character of Zimri, drawn for the Duke of Buckingham, is certainly fevere enough to repay all the ridicule thrown on him by that nobleman in the character of Bay's. The refentment shown by the different Peers was very different: Lord Rochester, who was a coward as well as a man of the most depraved morals, basely hired three ruffians to cudgel Dryden in a coffee-house; but the Duke of Buckingham, as we are told, in a more open manner, took that talk on him? felf, and at the same time presented him with a purse containing no very triffing sum of money, telling him, that he gave him the beating as a punish-

a punishment for his impudence, but bestowed the gold on him as a reward for his wit. Soon after the accession of King James II. our author changed his religion for that of the Church of Rome, and wrote two pieces in vindication of the Romish tenets, viz. A Defence of the Papers written by the late King of bleffed memory, found in his ftrong box. and the celebrated poem, afterwards answered by Lord Halifax, entitled the Hind and the Panther. By this extraordinary step, he not only engaged himself in controversy, and incurred much centure and ridicule from his cotemporary wits, but on the completion of the Revolution, being, on account of his newlychosen religion, disqualified from bearing any office under the Government, he was ftripped of the Laurel, to which he had been appointed, and which, to his still greater mortification. was bestowed on Richard Flecknoe, a man to whom he had the most fettled averfion. This circumstance occasioned his writing the very severe poem called Mac Flecknoe. Mr. Dryden's circumstances had never been affluent; but now, being deprived of this little fupport, he found himfelf reduced to the necessity of writing for mere bread. - We confequently find him from this period engaged in works of labour as well as genius, viz. in translating the

the works of others; and to this necessity perhaps our nation stands indebted for some of the best translations extant. In the year he lost the laurel, he published the life of St. Francis Xavier, from the French. In 1603 came out a translation of Juvenal and Perfius, in the first of which he had a considerable hand, and of the latter the entire execution. In 1605 was published his prose version of Fresnoy's Art of Painting, and the very year 1607 gave the world that translation of Virgil's works entire, which still does, and perhaps ever will, fland foremost among the attempts made on that author. The Petites pieces of this eminent writer, fuch as Prologues, Epilogues, Epitaphs, Elegies, Songs, &c. are too numerous to specify here, and too much dispersed to direct the reader to. - The greatest part of them, however, are to be found in a collection of Miscellanies, in fix volumes 12mo. His last work is what is called his Fables, which confift of many of the most interesting stories in Homer, Ovid, Boccace, and Chaucer, translated or modernized in the most elegant and poetical manner, together with fome original pieces, among which is that amazing Ode on St. Cecilia's Day, which, though written in the very decline of its author's life, and at a period when old age and diffress

diffress conspired as it were to damp his poetic ardour, and clip the wings of fancy, yet possesses so much of both, as would be sufficient to have rendered him immortal, had he never written a single line besides.

Dryden married the Lady Elizabeth Howard, fifter to the Earl of Berkshire, who furvived him eight years, though for the last four of them she was a lunatic, having been deprived of her fenses by a nervous fever. By this Lady he had three fons, who all furvived him. Their names were Charles, John, and Henry. Of the last of these we can trace no particulars: of the fecond fome little account will be given in the succeeding article; and with respect to the eldest, there is a circumstance related by Charles Wilson, Esq; in his Life of Congreve, which feems fo well attefted, and is itfelf of fo very extraordinary a nature, that I cannot avoid admitting it here. The event is as follows:

Dryden, with all his understanding, was weak enough to be fond of Judicial Astrology, and used to calculate the nativity of his children.—When his Lady was in labour with his son Charles, he being told it was decent to withdraw, laid his watch on the table, begging one of the Ladies then present, in a most solemn manner, to take exact notice of the

very minute the child was born; which fhe did, and acquainted him with it. About a week after, when his Lady was pretty well recovered, Mr. Dryden took occasion to tell her that he had been calculating the child's nativity, and observed, with grief, that he was born in an evil hour; for Jupiter, Venus, and the Sun, were all under the Earth, and the Lord of his ascendant afflicted with a hateful square of Mars and Saturn. "If he live to " arrive at the eighth year," fays he, " he will " go near to die a violent death on his birth-"day; but if he should escape, as I see but " fmall hopes, he will in the twenty-third " year be under the same evil direction; and " if he should escape that also, the thirty-" third or thirty-fourth year I fear is" Here he was interrupted by the immoderate grief of his Lady, who could no longer hear calamity prophefied to befall her fon. The time at last came, and August was the inauspicious month in which young Dryden was to enter into the eighth year of his age. The Court being in progress, and Mr. Dryden at leifure, he was invited to the country feat of the Earl of Berkshire, his brother-in-law, to keep the long vacation with him, at Charlton, in Wilts: his Lady was invited to her uncle Mordaunt's, to pass the remainder of the sum-

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mer. When they came to divide the children, Lady Elizabeth would have him take John. and fuffer her to take Charles; but Mr. Dryden was too absolute, and they parted in anger: he took Charles with him, and she was obliged to be content with John. When the fatal day came, the anxiety of the Lady's spirits occasioned such an effervescence of blood, as threw her into fo violent a fever, that her life was despaired of, till a letter came from Mr. Dryden, reproving her for her womanish credulity, and affuring her that her child was well, which recovered her spirits; and in fix weeks after she received an Eclaircissement of the whole affair. Mr. Dryden, either through fear of being reckoned fuperstitious, or thinking it a science beneath his study, was extremely cautious of letting any one know that he was a dealer in Aftrology; therefore could not excuse his absence, on his son's anniversary, from a general hunting-match Lord Berkshire had made, to which all the adjacent gentlemen were invited. When he went out, he took care to fet the boy a double exercise in the Latin tongue, which he taught his children himself, with a strict charge not to stir out of the room till his return; well knowing the task he had set him would take up a longer time. Charles was performing his duty, in obedience .

obedience to his father, but, as ill fate would have it, the ftag made towards the house; and the noise alarming the servants, they hasted out to fee the sport. One of them took young Dryden by the hand, and led him out to fee it also, when, just as they came to the gate, the flag being at bay with the dogs, made a bold push, and leaped over the court wall, which was very low, and very old; and the dogs following, threw down part of the wall, ten yards in length, under which Charles Dryden lay buried. He was immediately dug out, and after fix weeks languishing in a dangerous way, he recovered. So far Dryden's prediction was fulfilled. In the twenty-third year of his age, Charles fell from the top of an old tower belonging to the Vatican at Rome. occasioned by a swimming in his head, with which he was feized, the heat of the day being excessive. He again recovered, but was ever after in a languishing fickly state. In the thirty-third year of his age, being returned to England, he was unhappily drowned at Windfor: he had, with another gentleman, fwam twice over the Thames; but returning a third time, it was supposed he was taken with the cramp, because he called our for help, though too late. Thus the father's calculation proved but too prophetical,

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At last, after a long life, harraffed with the most laborious of all fatigues, viz. that of the mind, and continually made anxious by diffress and difficulty, our author departed this life on the 1st of May, 1701, and was interred in Westminster Abbey. On the 19th of April he had been very bad of the gout and eryfipelas in one leg; but he was then somewhat recovered, and defigned to go abroad ? on the Friday following he are a partridge for his fupper. and, going to take a turn in the little garden behind his house in Gerard-street, he was feized with fo violent a pain under the ball of the great toe of his right foot, that, unable to stand, he cried out for help, and was carried in by his fervants, when, upon fending for furgeons, they found a small black spot in the place affected: he submitted to their present applications, and when gone, called his fon-Charles to him, using these words: "I know "this black fpot is a mortification: I know " also, that it will seize my head, and that "they will attempt to cut off my leg; but I "command you, my fon, by your filial duty, " that you do not suffer me to be dismember-"ed." As he foretold, the event proved, and his fon was too dutiful to disobey his father's commands. On the Wednesday morning following, he breathed his last, under the Vol. I. H most

most excruciating pains, in the 69th year of his age. The day after Mr. Dryden's death. the Dean of Westminster sent word to Mr. Dryden's widow, that he would make a prefent of the ground, and all other Abbey-fees, for the funeral: the Lord Halifax likewise sent to the Lady Elizabeth, and to Mr. Charles Dryden, offering to defray the expences of our Poet's funeral, and afterwards to beflow five hundred pounds on a monument in the Abbey; which generous offer was accepted. Accordingly, on Sunday following, the company being affembled, the corpfe was put into a velvet hearfe, attended by eighteen mourning-coaches. When they were just ready to move, Lord Jefferys, fon of Lord Chancellor Jefferys, a name dedicated to infamy, with some of his rakish companions, riding by, asked whose funeral it was; and being told it was Mr. Dryden's, he protested he should not be buried in that private manner; that he would himself, with the Lady Elizabeth's leave, have the honour of the interment, and would bestow a thousand pounds on a monument in the Abbey for him. This put a stop to their procession; and the Lord Jefferys, with several of the gentlemen, who had alighted from their coaches, went up stairs to the lady, who was fick in bed; his Lordship repeated the purport DOGE

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purport of what he had faid below; but the Lady Elizabeth refufing her confent, he fell on his knees, vowing never to rife till his request was granted. The Lady, under a sudden furprise, fainted away; and Lord Jefferys, pretending to have gained her confent, ordered the body to be carried to Mr. Ruffel's, an Undertaker in Cheapside, and to be left there till further orders. In the mean time the Abbey was lighted up, the ground opened, the Choir attending, and the Bishop waiting for some hours to no purpose for the corpse. The next day Mr. Charles Dryden waited on Lord Halifax and the Bishop, and endeavoured to excuse his mother, by relating the truth. Three days after, the Undertaker having received no orders, waited on the Lord Jefferys, who pretended that it was a drunken frolic, that he remembered nothing of the matter, and he might do what he pleafed with the body. Upon this the Undertaker waited on the Lady Elizabeth, who defired a day's respite, which was granted. Mr. Charles Dryden immediately wrote to the Lord Jefferys, who returned for answer, that he knew nothing of the matter, and would be troubled no more about it. Mr. Dryden hercupon applied again to the Lord Halifax, and the Bishop of Rochester, who absolutely refused to do any thing in the affair. In this H 2 diftrefs.

distress, Dr. Garth, who had been Mr. Dryden's intimate friend, fent for the corple to the College of Physicians, and proposed a subfcription; which succeeding, about three weeks after Mr. Dryden's decease, Dr. Garth pronounced a fine Latin Oration over the body. which was conveyed from the college, attended by a numerous train of coaches, to Westminster Abbey, but in very great disorder. At last the corpse arrived at the Abbey, which was all unlighted. No organ played, no anthem fung; only two of the finging boys preceding the corpfe, who fung an ode of Horace, with each a small candle in his hand. When the funeral was over, Mr. Charles Dryden fent a challenge to Lord Jefferys, who refufing to answer it, he sent several others, and went often himself; but could neither get a letter delivered, nor admittance to speak to him: fo that, finding his Lordship refused to answer him like a gentleman, he refolved to watch an opportunity, and brave him to fight, though with all the rules of honour; which his Lordship hearing, quitted the town; and Mr. Charles never had an opportunity to meet him, though he fought it to his death, with the utmost application.

Mr. Dryden had no monument erected to him for feveral years; to which Mr. Pope alludes distretion

alludes in his epitaph intended for Mr. Rowe; in this line, and stand stands with the

"Beneath a rude and nameless stone he lies," In a note upon which we are informed, that the tomb of Mr. Dryden was erected upon this hint, by Sheffield Duke of Buckingham, to which was originally intended this epitaph;

"This Sheffield rais'd."-The facred dust below. Was Dryden once ;- the rest who does not know? Which was fince changed into the plain inscription now upon it, viz.

J. DRYDEN, Natus Aug. 9, 1631. Mortuus Maii 1, 1701.

Johannes Sheffield, Dux Buckinghamiensis, fecit.

Mr. Dryden's character has been very differently drawn by different hands, fome of which have exalted it to the highest degree of commendation, and others debased it with the feverest censure. The latter, however, we must charge to that strong spirit of party which prevailed during great part of Dryden's time : and it ought therefore to be taken with great allowances. Were we indeed to form a judgement of the Author from some of his dramatic writings, we fhould perhaps be apt to conclude him a man of the most licentious morals, many of his comedies containing a great share of loofeness, even extending to obscenity: but, if we insited confider

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confider that, as the poet tells us,

"Those who live to please, must please to live;"
if we then look back to the scandalous licence
of the age he lived in, the indigence which at
times he underwent, and the necessity he consequently lay under of complying with the
public taste, however depraved; we shall surely
not refuse our pardon to the compelled writer,
nor our credit to those of his cotemporaries
who were intimately acquainted with him, and
who have assured us, there was nothing remarkably vicious in his personal character.

From fome parts of his history he appears unfleady, and to have too readily temporifed with the feveral revolutions in Church and State. This, however, might in some meafure have been owing to that natural timidity and diffidence in his disposition, which almost all the writers feem to agree that he poffeffed. Congreve, whose authority cannot be suspected, has given us fuch an account of him, as makes him appear no less amiable in his private character as a man, than he was illustrious in his public one as a poet. In the former light, according to that gentleman, he was humane, compaffionate, forgiving, and fincerely friendly; of an extensive reading, tenacious memory, and a ready communication; gentle in the correction of the writings of others, and patient rebergoo

patient under the reprehension of his own deficiencies; easy of access himself, but flow and dissident in his advances to others; and of allmen the most modest, and the most easy to be discountenanced in his approaches, either tohis superiors or equals. As to his writings, he is perhaps the happiest, in the harmony of his numbers, of any poet who ever lived, either before or since his time, not even Mr. Pope himself excepted. His imagination is ever warm, his images noble, his descriptions beautiful, and his sentiments just and becoming. In his prose he is poetical without bombast, concise without pedantry, and clear without prolixity.

I shall, however, close my account of this celebrated author with the words of Mr. Congreve, who has borne the following strong testimonial to his poetical merit. " I may "venture," fays that gentleman, " to say in " general terms, that no man has written in " our language so much, and in so various " manners, so well. Another thing, I may say,

"was very peculiar to him, which is, that his parts did not decline with his years, but that he was an improved writer to the laft, even

"to near seventy years of age; improving even in fire and imagination, as well as in

"judgement; witness his ode on St. Cecilia's

"Day, and his Fables, his latest performance. "He was equally excellent in verse and prose. "His profe had all the clearness imaginable, " without deviating to the language or diction of poetry. In his poems his diction is, "whenever his subject requires it, so sublime, and fo truly poetical, that its effence, like "that of pure gold, cannot be destroyed. "Take his verses, and divest them of their "rhimes, disjoint them of their numbers, " transpose their expressions, make what ar-" rangement or disposition you please in his " words; yet shall there eternally be poetry, and fomething which will be found incapa-" ble of being reduced to absolute prose. "What he has done in any one species or di-" flinct kind of writing, would have been fuf-"ficient to have acquired him a very great " name. --- If he had written nothing but his " prefaces, or nothing but his fongs and his " prologues, each of them would have entitled "him to the preference and distinction of ex-" celling in its kind," and a they of arenal is "

es incline design pareiros en la lega los ligres es designator es la compania de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del compania de la compania del compania

voll.

# JOHN EVELYN,

and for the benefit of the construct

LEARNED Writer of the 17th contury: descended from a very ancient and honourable family, which flourished originally at a place called Evelyn, in the county of Salop. This name, originally written Avellan, or Ivelin, fignifies a filberd, or hazel. He was born October 31, 1620, at Wooten in Surry, a place which owed no little praise to his anceftors, who were all of them fond of planting. He was educated at the free school of Lewes. in Suffex, from whence he was removed to Oxford, where he was entered, in 1637, a Gentleman Commoner: having profecuted his studies here in Logic and Philosophy, he removed to the Middle Temple, London, where he continued till 1644, and then, by leave obtained from under King Charles the First's own hand, left England in quest of improvements abroad. The accuracy wherewith he examined every thing curious in Architecture, Painting, Antiquities, and Natural Philosophy, is scarcely conceivable to any but those who have perused his works; and his readers are always struck with admiration. When he returned home, the noble fund of knowledge he had laid in abroad, was diffeminated

nated for the benefit of his countrymen: yet his life was not merely that of a scholar, but also that of a politician; and he was not only an admirer of Nature, but likewise a lover of his King and Country. The prudent step he took to justify the character of Charles II. from the virulence of calumny, and the advances he made to Colonel Morley, to render his restoration easy, are sufficient confirmations of his loyalty. The arduous employments he was engaged in during the reigns of Charles II. and his Brother, and the manner in which he acquitted himself in the discharge of them, showed that he wanted not abilities for public employs. And if we consider the high character he bore among the Fellows of the Royal Society, the utility of all his treatifes, which tended not only to the embellishing, but likewise the security of his country; we must, even in these days, own our elves indebted to his pen. No man ever cultivated Botany, all the branches of Natural Philosophy, the defigning arts, Architecture, Engraving, Painting, Gardening, and Antiquities, with more affiduity, and with more fuccess. The University of Oxford is indebted to his mediation for the Arundelian marbles; the learned editor of Camden, for the additions to the county of Surrey; and Mr. Houghton, Dalled for

for great embellishments to his treatise on Husbandry. He was not only master of several languages, but likewise a great improver of his own. Though learned, he was humble, and ready to communicate his stores to any person.

As he lived an ornament to our nation, fo he died an example to all that succeed him; and as he fpent a life of 86 years in the fervice of his Creator, fo he took care that his death should not be without instruction, as appears from the inscription on his tomb-stone; which informs us, "That living in an age of extra-" ordinary events and revolutions, he had "learned from thence this truth, which he er defired might be communicated to poste-"rity,-That all is vanity which is not ho-" nest, and that there is no solid wisdom but " in real piety." med phenty didnosty high

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#### MR. GEORGE FARQUHAR.

HIS gentleman was descended from a family of no inferior rank in the North of Ireland; his father being a Clergyman, and, according to fome, Dean of Armagh. Our Author was born at Londonderry, in 1678, where he received the rudiments of erudition;

erudition; and from whence, as foon as he was properly qualified, he was fent to the University of Dublin, in 1694. He had given very early testimony of a promising genius, and discovered, even at ten years of age, a strong inclination for the service of the Muses. By the progress he made in his studies at the Univerfity, he acquired a confiderable reputation, but does not appear to have taken any degree there; for the natural liveliness and volatility of his disposition soon rendered him weary of an academic life. The polite entertainments of the town more forcibly attracted his attention; but, among them all, none feemed to fix fo strong a claim on his regards as the Theatre; at which he foon found in kimfelf a propenfity for being not only a spectator, but a performer. His intimacy with the celebrated Mr. Wilks might probably strengthen that inclination in him; and when that gentleman engaged himfelf to Mr. Ashbury, the manager of the Dublin theatre, Mr. Farquhar was foon introduced on the stage through his means. In this fituation he continued no longer than part of one feafon, nor made any very confiderable figure; for, though his person was suffi-ciently in his favour, and he was possessed of the requifites of a strong retentive memory, a just manner of speaking, and an easy and elegant

elegant deportment, yet his natural diffidence and timidity, or what is usually termed the Stage-terror, which he was never able to overcome, added to a thin infufficiency of voice. were firong bars in the way of his fuccess, more especially in tragedy --- However, notwithstanding these disadvantages, it is not improbable, as from his amiable private behaviour he was much efteemed, and had never met with the least repulse from the audience in any of his performances, that he might have continued much longer on the stage, but for an accident which determined him to quit it on a sudden; for, being to play the part of Guyomar in Dryden's Indian Emperor, who kills Vasquez, one of the Spanish Generals. Mr. Farguhar, by fome mistake, took a real fword, instead of a foil, on the stage with him, and in the engagement wounded his brother tragedian, who acted Vasquez, in so dangerous a manner, that, although it did not prove mortal, he was a long time before he recovered; and the confideration of the fatal confequences that might have enfued, wrought fo frongly on our author's humane disposition. that he took up a resolution never to go on the flage again, or fubmit himself to the possibility of fuch another mistake. Thus did Mr. Farquhar quit the stage, at a time of life when Vol. I. few

few have even attempted to go on it; for at this juncture he could not have been much more than feventeen years of age, fince fome time afterwards, when Mr. Wilks, being engaged to Drury-Lane Theatre, left Dublin, Mr. Farguhar accompanied him to London: and this event happened no later than in the year 1606, at which time he was but eighteen. Here his abilities and agreeable address met with confiderable encouragement, and in particular recommended him to the patronage of the Earl of Orrery, who gave him a Lieutenant's commission in his own regiment, then in Ireland, which he held feveral years, and in his military capacity constantly behaved without reproach, giving, on many occasions, proofs of great bravery and conduct. But these were not all the perfections which appeared in Mr. Farquhar; and Mr. Wilks, who well knew his humour and abilities, and was convinced that he would make a much more conspicuous figure as a dramatic writer, than as a theatrical performer, never ceased his follicitations on that head, till he had prevailed on him to undertake a comedy, which he completed, and brought on the stage in 1698. This was his Love and a Bottle, which, though written when its author was under twenty years of age, yet contains fuch a variety

riety of incidents and characters, and fuch a fprightliness of dialogue, as must convince us, that even then he had a confiderable knowledge of the world, and a very clear judgement of the manners of mankind: and the fuccess of it, even notwithstanding Mr. Wilks, the town's great favourite in comedy, had no part in it, was equal to its defert. Whether this play made its appearance before or after he received his commission, does not seem very clear; but it is evident, that his military avocations did not check his dramatic talents, but, on the contrary, rather improved them, fince in many of his plays, especially in his Recruiting Officer, he has admirably availed himfelf of the observations of life and character, which the army was able fo amply to supply him with: and with such an easy pleasantry, and yet so severe a critical justice, has he rallied the foibles, follies, and vices, even of those characters he might have been supposed the most partial to, that it has been observed, if he had not been himself an lrishman, and an officer, it would have been almost impossible for him to have avoided the refentments which would probably have fallen on him, for the liberty he has taken, in some of his pieces, with the characters of some of the gentlemen in the army, as well as with those of a neighbouring kingdom.

kingdom. The fuccess of his first play established his reputation, and encouraged him to proceed; and the winter feason of the Jubilee year, 1700, gave the public his favourite play of the Constant Couple, in which the gay airy humour thrown into the character of Sir Harry Wildair, was fo well suited to Mr. Wilks's talents, that it gave him such an opportunity of exertion, as greatly heightened his reputation with the public, and, in great measure, repaid those acts of friendship which he had ever bestowed on Mr. Farquhar. This piece was played fifty three nights in the first feafon, and has justly continued in high efteem ever fince. The following year produced a fequel to it, which, though much the most indifferent of all his plays, yet met with tolerable fuccess, and, indeed, with much better than the comedy of the Inconstant, which he gave to the public two years afterwards, viz. in 1703, and which vaftly excelled it in point of intrinsic merit. But the failure of the lastmentioned piece was entirely owing to the inundation of foreign entertainments of music, finging, dancing, &c. which at that time broke in upon the English stage in a torrent, and feemed, with a magical infatuation, at once to take possession of British taste, and to occasion a total neglect of the more valuable and intrinfic

trinsic productions of our own countrymen. This little discouragement, however, did not put a ftop to our author's ardour for the entertainment of the public, fince we find him still writing till almost the hour of his death; his Beaux Stratagem having been written during his last illness, and his death happening during the run of it. Notwithstanding the several disappointments and vexations which this gentleman met with during his fhort flay in this transitory world, nothing seems to have been able to overcome the readiness of his genius, or the easy good-nature of his disposition; for he began and finished his well-known comedy of the Beaux Stratagem in about fix weeks, during his last illness, notwithstanding, for great part of the time, he was extremely fenfible of the approaches of death, and even foretold what actually happened, viz. that he should die before the run of it was over. Nay, in so calm and manly a manner did he bear the expectation of that fatal event, as even to be able to exercise his wonted pleafantry on the very subject; for, while his play was in rehearfal, his friend Mr. Wilks, who frequently visited him during his illness, observing to him, that Mrs. Oldfield thought he had dealt too freely with the character of Mrs. Sullen, in giving her to Archer, without fuch

fuch a proper divorce as might be a fecurity for her honour,—"Oh," replied the author with his accustomed vivacity, "I will, if she "pleases, salve that immediately, by getting "a real divorce, marrying her myself, and "giving her my bond that she shall be a real "widow in less than a fortnight." But nothing can give a more perfect idea of that disposition I have hinted at in him, than the very laconic, but expressive billet, which Mr. Wilks sound after his death among his papers, directed to himself, and which, as a curiosity in its kind, I cannot refrain from giving to my readers: it was as follows,

" Dear Bob,

"I have not any thing to leave thee to per"petuate my memory, but two helpless girls;
"look upon them sometimes, and think of
"him that was, to the last moment of his
"life, thine,

"GEORGE FARQUHAR."

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## HENRY FIELDING, Esq.

THIS well known and justly celebrated writer of our own time, was born at Sharpham Park in Somersetshire, April 22, 1707. His father, Edmund Fielding, Esq; who was a younger son of the Earl of Denbigh,

bigh, was in the army, and towards the close of King George the First's reign, or the accession of George II. was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General. His mother was daughter to Judge Gould, and aunt to the present Sir Henry Gould. This lady, besides. our author, who seems to have been her firstborn, had another fon, and four daughters, one of the latter being the celebrated Miss Fielding, author of David Simple, the Countess of Delvin, the Cry, and many other very ingenious pieces: and, in consequence of his father's fecond marriage, Mr. Fielding had fix half-brothers, all of whom are dead, ex-cept the prefent Sir John Fielding, now in the commission of the peace for the counties of Middlefex, Surry, Effex, and the liberties of Westminster. Our author received the first rudiments of his education at home, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Oliver, for whom hefeems to have had no very great regard, as he is faid to have defigned a portrait of his character in the very humorous, yet detestable one, of Parson Trulliber, in his Joseph Andrews. When taken from under this gentleman's. charge, he was removed to Eton School, where he had an opportunity of cultivating a very early intimacy and friendship with several, who afterwards became the first persons in the kingdom,

kingdom, fuch as Lord Lyttelton, Mr. Fox. Mr. Pitt, Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, &c. who ever through life retained a warm regard for him. But these were not the only advantages he reaped at that great feminary of education; for, by an affiduous application to fludy, and the possession of strong and peculiar talents, he became, before he left that school, uncommonly versed in the Greek authors, and a perfect mafter of the Latin Claf-Thus accomplished, at about eighteen years of age he left Eton, and went to Leyden, where he studied under the most celebrated civilians for two years; at the expiration of which time, the remittances from England not coming fo regularly as at first, he was obliged to return to London. In short, General Fielding's family being very greatly increafed by his fecond marriage, as may be feen from what we have faid above, it became impossible for him to make such appointments for his eldest son, as he could have wished; the utmost that he could afford to allow him being ro more than two hundred pounds a year; with which slender income, a strong constitution, a lively imagination, and a difposition naturally but little formed for oeconomy, he found himself his own master, in a place where the temptations to expensive pleafures

fures are fo numerous, and the means of gratifying them so easily attainable. This fatally pleafing fituation may be confidered as the fource of every misfortune or uneafiness that Mr. Fielding afterwards felt through life. He very foon found that his finances were by no means adequate to the frequent draughts made on him from the confequences of the brifk career of diffipation he had launched into; yet, as disagreeable impressions never continued long upon his mind, but, on the contrary, roused him to ftruggle through his difficulties with the greater spirit and magnanimity, he flattered himfelf that he should find resources in his wit and invention; and accordingly commenced writer for the stage in the year 1727, at which time he had not more than attained the completion of his twentieth year. His first attempt in the drama was a piece called Love in feveral Masques, which, though it immediately fucceeded the long and crouded run of the Provoked Husband, met with a favourable reception; as did likewife his fecond play, which came out in the following year, and was entitled the Temple Beau. He did not, however, meet with equal fuccess in all his dramatic works; for he has even printed in the title-page of one of his farces, "as it was damned at the Theatre-Royal in " Drury-

"Drury-Lane:" and he himself informs us, in the general preface to his Miscellanies, that for the Wedding-Day, though acted fix nights, his profits from the House did not exceed fifty pounds. Nor did a much better fate attend fome of his earlier productions: fo that, though it was his lot always to write from neceffity, he would probably, notwithstanding his writings, have laboured continually under that necessity, had not the severity of the public, and the malice of his enemies, met with a noble alleviation from the patronage of feveral persons of distinguished rank and character, particularly the late Dukes of Richmond and Roxburgh, John Duke of Argyle, the late Lord Lyttelton, &c. the last named of which noblemen, not only by his friendship softened the rigour of our author's misfortunes while he lived, but also by his generous ardour has vindicated his character. and done justice to his memory, after death. About fix or feven years after Mr. Fielding's commencing writer for the stage, he fell in love with, and married, one Miss Craddock, a young lady from Salisbury, possessed of a very great share of beauty, and a fortune of about fifteen hundred pounds; and near the fame time his mother dying, an estate at Stower in Dorsetshire, of somewhat better than

than two hundred pounds per annum, came into his possession .- With this fortune, which, had it been conducted with prudence and oeconomy, might have fecured to him a state of independence for life, and, with the helps it might have derived from the productions of a genius unincumbered with anxieties and perplexity, might have even afforded him an affluent income, with this, I fay, and a wife of whom he was fond to distraction, and for whose fake he had taken up a resolution of bidding adieu to all the follies and intemperances to which he had addicted himself in that short, but very rapid career of a town-life which he had run, he determined to retire to his country feat, and there refide entirely. But here, in spite of this prudent resolution, one folly only took place of another, and family-pride now brought on him all the inconveniences in one place, that youthful diffipation and libertinism had done in another. The income he possessed, though sufficient for ease, and even fome degree of elegance, yet was by no means adequate to the support of luxury or splendor: yet, fond of figure and magnificence, he incumbered himself with a large retinue of servants; and his natural turn leading him to a fondness for the delights of society and convivial mirth, he threw wide open the gates of hospihospitality, and suffered his whole patrimony to be devoured by hounds, horses, and entertainments. In short, in less than three years, from the mere passion for being esteemed a man of great fortune, he reduced himself to the displeasing situation of having no fortune at all; and through an ambition of maintaining an open house for the reception of every one else, he soon found himself without a habitation which he could call his own. In a word, by a desire, as Shakespeare expresses it,

of fliewing a more swelling port

Than his faint means would grant continuance, he was, in the course of a very short period, brought back to the same unfortunate situation which he had before experienced; but with this aggravation, that he could now have none of those resources in future to look forward to, which he had thus indifcreetly lavished. He had undermined his supports, and had now nothing but his own abilities to depend on for the recovery of what he had so wantonly thrown from him, an easy tompetence. Not discouraged, however, he determined to exert his best abilities, betook himself closely to the study of the law, and, after the customary time of probation at the Temple, was called to the bar, and made no inconfiderable figure in Westminster Hall. To the practice of

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of the law Mr. Fielding now applied himfelf with great affiduity, both in the courts here and on the circuits, fo long as his health permitted him; and, it is probable, would have rifen to a confiderable degree of eminence in it, had not the intemperances of his early parts of life put a check, by their confequences, to the progress of his fuccess. In fhort, though but a young man, he began now to be molefted with fuch violent attacks from the gout, as rendered it impossible for him to be so conflant at the bar as the laboriousness of his profession required, and would only permit him to purfue the law by fnatches, at fuch intervals as were free from indisposition. However, under these united severities of pain and want. he still found resources in his genius and abilities,-He was concerned in a political periodical paper called the Champion, which owed its principal support to his pen; a pen which feems never to have lain idle, fince it was perpetually producing, almost as it were extempore, a play, a farce, a pamphlet, or a newspaper, but whose full exertion of power seemed referved for a kind of writing different from, and indeed superior to, them all: nor will it perhaps be necessary, in proof of this, more than to mention his celebrated novels of Joseph Andrews, and Tom Jones; which are Vol. I. K toa

too well known, and too justly admired, to leave us any room for expatiating on their me. rits. Precarious, however, as this means of fublistence unavoidably must be, it was scarcely possible he should be enabled by it to recover his shattered fortunes: he was therefore, at length, obliged to accept the office of an acting Magistrate in the Commission of the Peace, for the county of Middlefex; in which station he continued till pretty near the time of his death : \_\_\_ an office, however, which feldom fails of being hateful to the populace, and of course liable to many infamous and unjust imputations, particularly that of venality; a charge which the ill-natured world, not unacquainted with Mr. Fielding's want of coonomy, and passion for expence, were but too ready to cast upon him. Yet from this charge Mr. Murphy, in the life of this author, prefixed to a late edition of his works, has taken great pains to exculpate him; as has likewise Mr. Fielding himself, in his Voyage to Lisbon, which was not only his last work, but may, with some degree of propriety, be confidered as the last words of a dying man; that voyage having been undertaken only as a dernier refort in one last desperate effort for the preservation of life, and the restoring a constitution broken with chagrin, distress, vexation,

vexation, and public business; for his strength was at that time entirely exhausted, and in about two months after his arrival at Lisbon, he yielded his last breath, in the forty-eighth year of his age, and of our Lord 1754.

As to Mr. Fielding's character as a man, it may in a great measure be deduced from the incidents I have before related of his life, but cannot perhaps be with more candour set forth, than by his biographer Mr. Murphy, in the work I before made mention of, and with some of whose words therefore I shall close this article.

"It will be," fays that gentleman, "an "humane and generous office, to fet down " to the account of flander and defamation, a "great part of that abuse which was dif-" charged against him by his enemies in his " life-time; deducing, however, from the " whole, this useful leffon, that quick and " warm passions should be early controuled, " and that diffipation and extravagant plea-" fures are the most dangerous palliations that " can be found for disappointments and vexa-"tions, in the first stages of life. --- We have " feen," adds he, "how Mr. Fielding very foon " fquandered away his small patrimony, which, " with œconomy, might have procured him " independence; -we have feen how he ruin-" ed. K 2

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et ed, into the bargain, a constitution, which, "in its original texture, feemed formed to last "much longer. When illness and indigence " were once let in upon him, he no longer re-" mained the mafter of his own actions; and that nice delicacy of conduct, which alone constitutes and preserves a character, was "occasionally obliged to give way. When " he was not under the immediate urgency of " want, those who were intimate with him " are ready to aver, that he had a mind greatly "fuperior to any thing mean or little; when "his finances were exhausted, he was not the " most elegant in his choice of the means to " redress himself, and he would instantly ex-" hibit a farce, or a puppet-show, in the Hay-Market Theatre, which was wholly inconof fiftent with the profession he had embarked in! but his intimates are witness how much his pride fuffered when he was forced onto measures of this kind; no man ha-"ving a juster sense of propriety, or more " honourable ideas of the employment of an 46 author or a fcholar."

## DAVID GARRICK, Esq.

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T would furely be needless here to mention, that the Gentleman thus named is at this. time a living writer, were it not for the fake of future theatrical chronology, which may at some period hereafter have occasion for such information. He was born at the city of Hereford, in the year 1717, his father bearing a Captain's commission in the army, which. rank he maintained for feveral years; and at the time of his death, was possessed of a Majority, which that event however prevented him from ever enjoying. Our author received the first rudiments of his education at the freeschool of Litchfield, which he afterwards completed at Rochester, under the celebrated Mr. Colfon, fince Mathematical Professor at Cambridge. On the 10th of March, 1736, he was entered of the honourable fociety of Lincoln's-Inn, being intended for the bar: but whether he found the study of the law too heavy, faturnine, and barren of amusement, for his more active and lively disposition, or that a genius like his could not continue circumfcribed within the limits of any profession, but that to which it was more peculiarly adapted. and like the magnetic needle pointed directly to

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its proper centre, it is certain that he did not long purfue the municipal law: for. in the year 1740-1, he quitted it entirely for the stage, and made his first appearance at the theatre in Goodman's-Fields, then under the management of Mr. Henry Giffard. The character he first represented was that of King Richard III. in which, like the fun burfting from behind an obscure cloud, he displayed, in the very earliest dawn, a somewhat more than meridian brightness. In short, his excellence dazzled and aftonished every one, and the seeing a young man, in no more than his twenty-fourth year, and a novice to the stage. teaching at one fingle step to that height of perfection, which maturity of years and long practical experience had not been able to beflow on the then capital performers of the English stage, was a phænomenon which could not but become the object of universal speculation, and as univerfal admiration. The rumous of this bright flar appearing in the East, flew, with the rapidity of lightening through the town, and drew all the theatrical magi thither to pay their devotions to this new-born fon of Genius. The theatres towards the Courtend of the town were deferted, persons of all ranks flocking to Goodman's-Fields, where Mr. Garrick continued to act till the close of the

#### DAVID GARRICK, Ese 103:

the feafon, when, having very advantageous: terms offered him, for performing in Dubhin during fome part of the fummer, he went over thither, where he found the fame just homage paid to his merit, as he had received? from his own countrymen. To the fervice of the latter, however, he esteemed himself more: immediately bound; and therefore, in the enfuing winter, engaged himself to Mr. Fleetwood, then manager of Drury-Lane Playhouse, in which theatre he continued till the: year 1745; in the winter of which he again. went over to Ireland, and continued therethrough the whole of that feafon, being joint manager with Mr. Sheridan, in the direction. and profits of the Theatre-Royal in Smock-Alley. From thence he returned to England. and was engaged, for the feafon of 1746, with the late Mr. Rich, Patentee of Covent-Gar-This, however, was his last performance as an hired actor; for, in the close of that feason, Mr. Fleetwood's patent for the management of Drury-Lane being expired, and that gentleman having no inclination farther to purfue a defign by which, from his. want of acquaintance with the proper conduct. of it, or fome other reasons, he had already. confiderably impaired his fortune; Mr. Garrick, in conjunction with Mr. Lacy, purchased

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the property of that theatre, together with the renewal of the patent; and, in the winter of 1747, opened it with the best part of Mr. Fleetwood's former Company, and the great additional strength of Mr. Barry, Mrs. Pritchard, and Mrs. Cibber, from Covent-Garden. During the whole period of his holding this station, he has, both by his conduct as a manager, and his unequalled merit as an actor, from year to year, added to the entertainment of the public, which he has ever, with indefatigable affiduity, confulted: nor has the public been by any means ungrateful in its returns for that affiduity; but has, on the contrary, by the warm and deferved encouragement which it has given him, raised him to that state of ease and affluence, to which it must furely be the wish of every honest heart to see superior excellence of any kind exalted.

Mr. Garrick, in his person is low, yet well shaped, and neatly proportioned; and, having added the qualifications of dancing and sencing to that natural gentility of manner which no art can bestow, but which our great mother Nature endows many with, even from infancy, his deportment is constantly easy, natural, and engaging. His complexion is dark, and the seatures of his face, which are pleasingly regu-

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lar, are animated by a full black eye, brilliant and penetrating: his voice is clear, melodious, and commanding, and, although it may not possess the strong overbearing powers of Mr. Mossop's, or the musical fweetness of Mr. Barry's, yet it appears to have a much greater compais of variety than either; and, from Mr. Garrick's judicious manner of conducting it, enjoys that articulation and piercing diffinctness, which renders it equally intelligible, even to the most distant parts of an audience, in the gentle whifpers of murmuring love, the half-smothered accents of infelt passion, or the professed and sometimes aukward concealments of an afide-speech in comedy, as in the rants of rage, the darings of defpair, or all the open violence of tragic enthufiaim.

As to his particular forte, or superior cast in acting, it would be perhaps as difficult to determine it, as it would be minutely to describe his several excellencies in the very different casts in which he at different times has thought

proper to appear.

Particular superiority is swallowed up in his universality; and, should it even be contended, that there have been performers equal to him in their own respective fortes of playing, yet even their partizans must acknowledge, there never existed any one performer that came near

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his excellence in fo great a variety of parts. Tragedy, comedy, and farce, the lover and the hero, the jealous husband who suspects his wife's. virtue without cause, and the thoughtless. lively rake who attacks it without defign, are all alike open to his imitation, and all alike do honour to his execution. Every passion of the human breast seems subjected to his powers of expression; nay, even time itself appears to fland flill or advance as he would have it. Rage and ridicule, doubt and despair, transport and tenderness, compassion and contempt, love, jealoufy, fear, fury, and fimplicity, all take in turn possession of his features, while each of them in turn feems to be the fole poffessor of those features. One night old age fits on his countenance, as if the wrinkles she had Ramped there were indelible; the next, the gaiety and bloom of youth feems to overspread his face, and smooth even those marks which time and muscular conformation may have really made there. Of these truths no one can be ignorant, who has ever feen him in the feveral characters of Lear, Hamlet, Richard, Dorilas, Romeo, or Lufignon; in his Ranger, Bayes, Drugger, Kitely, Brute, or Benedict. In short, Nature, the mistress from whom alone this great performer has borrowed all his lessons, being in herfelf inexhaustible; and 18

and her variations not to be numbered, it is by no means furprizing, that this, her darling Son, should find an unlimited scope for change and diversity in his manner of copying from her various productions; and, as if she had from his cradle marked him out for her truest representative, she has bestowed on him such powers of expression in the muscles of his face, as no performer ever yet possessed; not only for the display of a single passion, but also for the combination of those various conslicts with which the human breast at times is fraught; so that, in his countenance, even when his lips are silent, his meaning stands pourtrayed, in characters too legible for any one to mistake it.

His fuperiority to all others in one branch of excellence, however, must not make us overlook the rank he is intitled to stand in, as to another; nor our remembrance of his being the first actor living, induce us to forget, that he is far from being the last writer.—Not-withstanding the numberless and laborious avocations attending on his profession as an actor, and his station as a manager; yet still his active genius has been perpetually bursting forth in various little productions, both in the dramatic and poetical way, whose merit can but make us regret his want of time for the pursuit of more extensive and important works.

## Mr. JOHN GAY.

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HIS gentleman was descended from an ancient family in Devenshire, was born at Exeter, and received his education at the free-school of Barnstaple, in that county, under the care of Mr. William Rayner. He was brought up a Mercer, in the Strand; but having a small fortune, independent of business, and confidering the attendance on a shop as a degradation of those talents which he found himself possessed of, he quitted that occupation, and applied himself to other views, and to the indulgence of his inclination for the Muses. In what year Mr. Gay was born, does not appear from the accounts of any of his historiographers; but in 1712 we find him Secretary, or rather Domestic Steward, to the Dutchess of Monmouth, in which station he continued till the beginning of the year 1714, at which time he accompanied the Earl of Clarendon to Hanover, whither that nobleman was dispatched by Queen Anne.

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In the latter end of the same year, in consequence of the Queen's death, he returned to England, where he lived in the highest estimation and intimacy of friendship with many persons of the first distinction both in rank and abilities. abilities. He was even particularly taken notice of by Queen Caroline, then Princeis of Wales, to whom he had the honour of reading in manuscript his tragedy of the Captives; and in 1726, dedicated his fables, by permiffion, to the Duke of Cumberland. From this countenance shown to him, and numberless promifes made him of preferment, it was reafonable to suppose, that he would have been genteelly provided for in some office suitable to his inclination and abilities; -inflead of which, in 1727, he was offered the place of Gentleman Usher to one of the youngest Princeffes; an office which, as he looked on it as rather an indignity to a man whose talents might have been much better employed, he thought proper to refuse; and some pretty warm remonstrances were made on the occasion, by his fincere friends and zealous patrons, the Duke and Duchess of Queensbury, which terminated in those two noble personages withdrawing from court in difgust. Mr. Gay's dependencies on the promises of the great, and the disappointments he met with, he has figuratively described in his fable of "The Hare "with many Friends." However, the very extraordinary fuccess he met with from public encouragement, made an ample amends, both with respect to satisfaction and emolument, for Vol. I. those

those private disappointments; for, in the feason of 1727-8, appeared his Beggar's Opera, the vast success of which was not only unprecedented, but almost incredible : it had an uninterrupted run, in London, of fixty-three nights in the first season, and was renewed in the enfuing one with equal approbation: it spread into all the great towns in England; was played in many places to the thirtieth and fortieth time, and at Bath and Briftol, fifty; made its progress into Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, in which last place it was acted for twenty-four successive nights; and last of all it was performed at Minorca: nor was the fame of it confined to the reading and representation alone, for the card-table and drawing-room shared with the theatre and closet in this refpect; the ladies carried about the favourite fongs of it engraven on their fan-mounts, and screens and other pieces of furniture were decorated with the fame. Mifs Fenton, who acted Polly, though till then perfectly obscure, became all at once the idol of the town; her pictures were engraven and fold in great numbers; her life written; books of letters and verfes to her published, and pamphlets made of even her very fayings and jelts; nay, the herfelf attained the highest rank a female subject can acquire. In short, the satire of this piece

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piece was so striking, so apparent, and so perfeetly adapted to the tafte of all degrees of people, that it even, for that feafon, overthrew the Italian Opera, that Dagon of the nobility and gentry, which had fo long feduced them to idolatry, and which Dennis by the labours and outcries of a whole life, and many other writers by the force of reason and reflection, had in vain endeavoured to drive from the throne of public tafte. Yet the Herculean exploit did this little piece at once bring to its completion, and for some time recalled the devotion of the town from an adoration of mere found and flow, to the admiration of, and relish for, true fatire, and found understanding. The profits of this piece were fo very great, both to the author and Mr. Rich, the manager, that it gave rife to a quibble, which became frequent in the mouths of many, viz. " that it had made Rich gay, "and Gay rich;" and I have heard it afferted, that the author's own advantage from it was not lefs than two thousand pounds. In consequence of this fuccess, Mr. Gay was induced to write a fecond part to it, which he entitled Polly: but the difgust subsisting between him and the Court, together with the mifrepresentations made of him, as having been the author of fome difaffe &ted libels and feditious L 2 pamphlets

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pamphlets, (a charge which, however, he warmly disavows in his preface to this Opera) a prohibition and suppression of it was fent from the Lord Chamberlain, at the very time when every thing was in readiness for the rehearfal of it. This disappointment, however, was far from being a lofs to the author : for, as it was afterwards confessed, even by his very best friends, to be in every respect infinitely inferior to the first part, it is more than probable. that it might have failed of that great success in the representation, which Mr. Gay might promife himself from it; whereas, the profits arifing from the publication of it afterwards in quarto, in confequence of a very large fubscription, which this appearance of persecution, added to the author's great perfonal interest, procured for him, were at least adequate to what could have accrued to him from a moderate run, had it been represented. This was the last dramatic piece of Mr. Gay's that made its appearance during his life; his opera of Achilles, and the comedy of the Diffressed Wife, being both brought on the stage after his death. As a Man, he appears to have been morally amiable: his disposition was sweet and affable, his temper generous, and his conversation agreeable and entertaining. He had indeed one foible, too frequently incident to . collings in men

men of great literary abilities, and which subjected him at times to inconveniences, which otherwise he needed not to have experienced, viz. an excess of indolence, without any knowledge of economy; so that, though his emoluments were, at some periods of his life, very considerable, he was at others greatly straitened in his circumstances; nor could he prevail on himself to follow the advice of his friend Dean Swift, whom we find in many of his letters endeavouring to persuade him to the purchasing of an annuity, as a reserve for the exigencies that might attend on old age.

Mr. Gay chose rather to throw himself on patronage, than to secure to himself an independent competency by the means pointed out to him; fo that, after having undergone many viciffitudes of fortune, and being for fome time chiefly supported by the liberality of the Duke and Duchess of Queensbury. he died at their house in Burlington-Gardens, in December, 1732. He was interred in Westminster Abbey, and a monument creeted to his memory, at the expence of his aforementioned noble benefactors, with an infcription expreffive of their regards and his own deferts, and an epitaph in verse by Mr. Pope; but, as both of them are still in existence, and free of access to every one, it would be impertinent to repeat either of them in this place,

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#### BEN JONSON,

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ONE of the most considerable Dramatic Poets of the last age, whether we confider the number or the merit of his productions, He was born at Westminster, in the year 1574, and was educated at the public school there, under the great Camden. He was descended from a Scots family; and his father, who loft his estate under Queen Mary, dying before our poet was born, and his mother marrying a bricklayer for her fecond husband, Ben was taken from school to work at his father-in-law's trade. Not being captivated with this employment, he went into the Low Countries, and diftinguished himself in a military capacity. On his return to England, he entered himself at St. John's College, Cambridge, and having killed a person in a duel, was condemned, and narrowly escaped execution. After this he turned actor, and Shake-Ipeare is faid to have first introduced him to the world, by recommending a play of his to the stage, after it had been rejected. His Alchymist gained him such reputation, that in 1610, he was, at the death of Mr. Daniel, made Poet-laureat to King James I. and afterwards Mafter of Arts at Oxford .- As we do not find Jonson's œconomical virtues any where

where recorded, it is the less to be wondered at, that after this we find him petitioning King Charles, on his accession, to enlarge his father's allowance of a hundred marks, into pounds; and quickly after we learn, that he was very poor and sick, lodging in an obscure alley: on which occasion it was, that Charles, being prevailed on in his favour, sent him tenguineas; which Ben receiving, said, "His "Majesty has sent me ten guineas, because I "am poor, and live in an alley; go and tell "him that his soul lives in an alley." He died in August 1637, aged 63 years, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. The infeription on his monument is,

"O RARE BEN JONSON!" All 1913

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#### NATHANIEL LEE,

A VERY eminent Dramatic Poet of the last century, was the son of a Clergyman, who gave him a very liberal education. He received his first rudiments of learning at Westminster School, from whence he went to Trinity College, Cambridge. Coming to London, however, his inclination prompted him to appear on the theatre; but he was not more successful in representing the thoughts of other

other men, than many a genius besides, who have been equally unfortunate in treading the stage, although they knew so well how to write for it. He produced eleven tragedies, all of which contain a very great portion of true poetic enthusiasm. No one ever felt the paffion of love more truly; nor could any one describe it with more tenderness. Addison commends his genius highly; observing, that none of our English poets had a happier turn for tragedy, although his natural fire and unbridled impetuofity hurried him beyond all bounds of probability, and fometimes were quite out of nature. The truth is, this poet's imagination tan away with his reason; so that at length he became quite crazy, and grew for bad that his friends were obliged to confine him in Bedlam, where he made that famous witty reply to a coxcomb scribbler, who had the cruelty to jeer him with his misfortune, by observing, that it was an easy thing to write like a madman: "No," faid Lee, "it is not an eafy thing to write like a madman; " but it is very eafy to write like a fool."

Lee had the good fortune to recover the use of his reason, so far as to be discharged from his melancholy confinement; but he did not long survive his enlargement, dying at the early age of thirty-four. Cibber, in his Lives

of the Poets, fays he perished unfortunately in a night-ramble in London streets; and other writers mention the same thing: and probably this was the end of poor Nat Lee!



### GEORGE LILLO

Which neighbourhood of Moorgate in London, on the 4th of Feb. 1693, in which neighbourhood he purfued his occupation for many years, with the fairest and most unblemished character. He was bred up in the principles of the Protestant Dissenters; but let his religious tracts have been what they would, he would have been an honour to any sect he adhered to. He was strongly attached to the Muses, yet seemed to have laid it down as a maxim, that the devotion paid to them ought always to tend to the promotion of virtue, morality, and religion.

In the pursuance of this aim, Mr. Lillo was happy in the choice of his subjects, and showed great power of affecting the heart, by working up the passions to such a height, as to render the distresses of common and domestic life equally interesting to the audience, as that of kings and heroes; and the ruin brought on

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private families by an indulgence of avarice, luft, &c. as the havock made in flates and empires, by ambition, cruelty, or tyranny. His George Barnwell, Fatal Curiofity, and Arden of Feversham, are all planned on common and well-known stories; yet they have perhaps more frequently drawn tears from an audience, than the more pompous tragedies of Alexander the Great, All for Love, &c. particularly the first of them, which being founded on a well-known old Ballad, many of the critics of that time, who went to the first reprefentation of it, formed so contemptible an ideaof the piece in their expectations, that they purchased the ballad, some thousands of which were used in one day on this account, in order to draw companifons between that and the play. But the merit of the play foon got the better of this contempt, and presented them with scenes. written fo truly to the heart, that they were compelled to subscribe to the power, and drop their ballads to take up their handkerchiefs. Mr. Lillo, as I before observed, has been happy in the choice of his fubjects; his conduct in the management of them is no less meritorious, and his pathos very great. If there is any fault to be objected to his writings, it is, that fometimes he affects an elevation of Ayle somewhat above the simplicity of his fubject,

Subject, and the supposed rank of his characters: but the cuftom of tragedy will ftand in fome degree of excuse for this; and a still better argument may perhaps be admitted in vindication, not only of our present author, but of other authors in the like predicament. which is, that even nature itself will justify this conduct, fince we find even the most humble characters in real life, when under peculiar circumstances of diffress, or actuated by the influence of any violent paffions, will at times be elevated to an aptness of expresfion, and power of language, not only greatly superior to themselves, but even to the general language of conversation of persons of much higher rank in life, and of minds more perfeetly cultivated. This author died Sept. 3. 1739, in the 47th year of his age, leaving behind him the character of a man of ftrict morals, great good-nature, and a found underflanding; and, what added a double luftre to all these perfections, endued with an uncommon share of modesty. --- Whincop (or the compiler of the lift of plays affixed to his Scanderbeg) has indeed spoke but flightingly of his genius, on account of some little fort of rivalthip and pique sublisting between that gentleman and our author, with respect to a tragedy of the latter's, entitled the Christian Hero. written

written on the same story with the Scanderbeg of the former; notwithstanding which, under the sanction not only of the success of his pieces, but also on the commendations bestowed on them by Mr. Pope, and other indisputable judges, I shall venture to affirm, that Mr. Lillo is far from standing in the lowest rank of merit (however he may be ranged with respect to same) among our dramatic writers. His dramatic pieces are seven in number.



#### JOHN LOCKE

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Was born at a place called Wrington, feven miles from Bristol, in 1632. His father belonged to the Law, and was Steward, or Court-keeper, to Colonel Alex. Popham. Our Author was sent by him to Westminster School, and was removed from thence, in 1651, to Christ-Church, Oxon, where he was a student. His peculiar study was Physic, in which he made no small progress, as appears from the Dedication of the great Sydenham to his Observationes Medica. To enumerate the public employs he was honoured with, and discharged with the greatest honour to himself, and satisfaction to the public.

fic. would be to reflect fame upon him from a quarter, whence persons of less genius might expect it; for, if we confider the great fervice he has done to Philosophy and Religion, by fubverting the Babel of School-learning, overthrowing the system of Aristotle, which was for feveral ages looked on as the standard of truth, and his introducing fuch a fystem in its flead as contributes to the enlarging our minds, the discovering of truth, and the improving of reason to its utmost extent, we must look on him as a wonder, or at least a glory, not only to his own country, but likewife to his species. The methods he used to acquire knowledge in all branches, deferves imitation, fince he looked on even the mechanic arts as not below his attention, but would discourse with the meanest workman. about his peculiar occupation, in order, by that means, to render every one capable of converfing with him, and at the fame time to make himself a master of every profession. If we look into the Effay of the Human Understanding, in all its parts, we shall find such a clearness of understanding as must deserve admiration, and fuch a knowledge of the powers and operations of the mind, as no other person could ever boaft of; but though his knowledge was greater than that of others, we find it de-Vol. I. livered M

livered in fuch terms as perfons of the meanest capacity can understand. It must indeed be acknowledged, that in fome opinions; he feems to be too fond of fingularity; and that, rather than think right with the vulgar, he chose to go wrong by himself: not but that he gives specious reasons for his adherence, and almost perfuades his opponents. His life was not less amiable than his writings, his conversation being easy and facetious: he won the love of those that knew him by his probity, and was always fafe from the attacks, either of falfehood, or a flatterer. His complaifance was free from fervility; his behaviour, fuch as befpoke a person of great experience, and as great humanity; on which account, he gained the respect of his inferiors, the esteem of his equals, and the confidence of his superiors. His temper was formething choleric, but foon pacified; and if he retained any refentment, it was against himself, for having given way to a passion, which, he said, might do a great deal of harm, but never did any good. His regard for religion was great and fincere, and that for the Christian dissensation higher than fome of his adversaries will perhaps allow. His death, which he faw approaching through the vistos of several years, gave him no trouble; for his thoughts and fluties, in his latter days, were

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were employed purely in preparing for it; and the manner in which he quitted this life, showed the utmost ferenity and resignation.

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#### MARTIN LUTHER,

So called from the Greek name he assumed instead of that of his samily, which was Lotter or Lauter, was born at Isleben in Thuringia, in 1483. After sinishing his studies, he entered himself among the Augustines, and in 1512, took the degree of Doctor of Divinity, in the University of Wirtemberg. In 1516 he began to see through the mists of school divinity, which he attacked in several theses, endeavouring to subvert the doctrine of Aristotle, and bring it into diffeseem.

In 1517, Leo X. having ordered indulgences to be given to those that should contribute towards the building of St. Peter's Church at Rome, and giving the dispensation of them to the Dominicans, it irritated the Augustines, who thought themselves robbed of their privileges, and chose Luther as their Advocate, authorizing him to preach against this encroachment: but Luther being a person of a warm spirit, and lively imagination, acquitted himself in a manner his employers could not

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have suspected; for, from inveighing against the preachers of indulgences, he attacked the very indulgences themselves; but being warmly engaged in disputes on this subject, the Pope, in order to put a stop to the torrent he seemed to threaten him with, had him publicly condemned and excommunicated. The Pope's thunder was so far from intimidating Luther, that it only animated him in the work of Reformation, and made him openly attack feveral other corruptions of the Romish Church. His character, which was that of an exemplary liver; the reputation he had acquired in the open at. tack he made upon the School-divinity; the ftrength of his arguments, and the weakness of his adversaries, foon acquired him a number of followers. In 1523, he quitted the habit of religion, and married in 1524. If we may form a judgement of this great Reformer from the accounts we have of him both by his followers and adversaries, we must acknowledge that he was too warm in his expressions; in his ridicule of the Papist doctors and universities, rather trifling and puerile than grave and folemn: he was rather too fond of punning, for one who had affumed the character of a Reformer: in his judgements he was likewife too precipitant, and indulged fome errors that speak the frailties of humanity so plainly, that

that it is a matter of aftonishment, that he should have been able to proselyte so many countries to his doctrine in so short a time, and so terribly to shake the chair of Infallibility.

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NATIVE of Florence, a perfor of great parts, and a very elegant writer. Though we find a great many beautiful paffages from the ancients interspersed in his works, yet he is supposed to have had but a very superficial acquaintance with the Latin. He was both Secretary and Historiographer to the Republic of Florence; which last post he obtained by means of Cardinal Julian de Medicis, with a handsome salary, in order to avoid his refentment for having put him to the torture, on a suspicion of his being an accomplice in the plots against the House of Medicis: the firength and resolution with which he underwent his trial, is furprifing. Some time afterwards he was fuspected a fecond time of being concerned in a plot to affaffinate the Cardinal. on account of the encomiums he bestowed on Brutus and Caffius, both in his writings and conversations, and from that time lived mifer-M 3 able.

#### 126 NICHOLAS MACHIAVEL.

able, abandoning himself to irreligion, and turning every thing into ridicule. In 1530, he died of a remedy which he had taken by way of antidote to preserve him from the attacks of any disease. His works are numerous; but that which is most famous, or rather notorious, is his Prince, which contains such shocking and irreligious principles, that it seems, in Mr. Pope's words, to be "damned" to everlasting same." Those who would conceive an idea of him, without reading him, need only to be told, that he is the Boling-broke of Florence, and that he had all the elegance, and all the irreligion, that can be met with in that polite, but impious writer.

#### \*\*XX\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# JOHN WILMOT, Earl of Rochester,

Wilmot, (afterwards Earl of Rochefter) who was so very instrumental in the preservation of Charles II. in his slight from Worcester, where he was deseated by Cromwell. The memorable Wit, who is the subject of this article, was born in 1648, and was educated first at Bursord free-school; from whence, in 1659, he was admitted a Nobleman

man of Wadham College in Oxford. He afterwards travelled into France and Italy, and. at his return, frequented the debauched court of Charles II, where his natural propenfities to vice were not likely to be curbed or cured ? here he was first made one of the Gentlemen' of his Majesty's Bed-Chamber, and then Comptroller of Woodstock Park. In the winter of 1665 he went to fea, under the Earl of Sandwich, who commanded a fleet employed in the war with the Dutch. Wilmot behaved very well in the attack made on the enemy in the port of Bergen in Norway, and gained a high reputation for courage, which he afterwards loft in an adventure with the Earl of Mulgrave, who called him to an account for fome words which he was reported to have spoken too freely of the Earl. Wilmot accepted the challenge; but when he came to the place appointed, declined coming to action; urging, that he was fo weak with a certain distemper, that he found himself unfit to fight. This unlucky affair entirely ruined his reputation for courage, and subjected him to farther infults; which will ever be the case when once people know a man's weakness in this respect. His reputation for wit, however, still kept him from totally finking in the opinion of the world; but, on the other hand, his exceffive

cessive debaucheries were, every day more and more, completing the ruin of his constitution: and the natural vivacity of his imagination being still more inslamed with wine, made his company to eagerly coveted by his gay afforciates, that they were ever contriving to engage him deeper and deeper in extravagance and intemperance, in order that they might be the more diverted by his humour. All this to entirely fubdued him, that, as he afterwards acknowledged, he was for five years together continually drunk; not, indeed, all the while under the visible effect of liquor, but so inflamed in his blood, that he was never cool enough to be mafter of himfelf. There were two principles in the natural temper of this lively and witty nobleman, which hurried him into great excels; a violent love of fenfual pleasure, and a disposition to extravagant mirth: the one involved him in the groffest debaucheries, and the other led him to many odd adventures and frolicks. Rochester had certainly a true talent for fatire, and he spared neither friends nor foes, but let it loofe on all, without discrimination. Majesty itself was not secure from it; he more than once lampooned the King, whose weakness and attachment to some of his mistresses he endeavoured to cure by feveral means, that is, either by winning A

winning them from him, in spite of the indulgence and liberality they felt from a royal gallant, or by feverely lampooning them and him on various occasions; which the King, who was a man of wit and pleasure as well as his Lordship, took for the natural sallies of his genius, and meant rather as the amusements of his fancy, than as the efforts of malice; yet, either by a too frequent repetition, or a too close and poignant virulence, the King banished him the court for a fatire made directly on him.

Much about this time the Duke of Buckingham was under difgrace, for things of another nature, and being difengaged from any particular attachment in town, he and Lord Rochester resolved, like Don Quixote of old, to fet out in quest of adventures; and they met with some that will appear entertaining to our readers, which we shall give upon the authority of the author of Rochester's Life, prefixed to his works. Among many other adventures the following was one:

There happened to be an inn on Newmarket road to be let: they difguifed themselves in proper habits for the persons they were to assume, and jointly took this inn, in which each in his turn officiated as mafter; but they soon made this subservient to purposes of another

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ther nature. Having carefully observed the pretty girls in the country with whom they were most captivated, (they considered not whether maids, wives, or widows) and how to gain opportunities of feducing them, they invited the neighbours who had either wives or daughters, to frequent feafts, where the men were plied hard with good liquor, and the women fufficiently warmed to make but as little refistance as would be agreeable to their inclinations, dealing out their poison to both fexes, inspiring the men with wine, and other strong . liquors, and the women with love : thus they were able to deflower many a virgin, and alienate the affections of many a wife, by this odd ftratagem; and it is difficult to fay, whether it is possible for two men to live to a worse purpofe.

It is natural to imagine, that this kind of life could not be of long duration. Feafls so frequently given, and that without any thing to pay, must give a strong suspicion that the inn-keepers must soon break, or that they were of such fortune and circumstances as did not well suit the post they were in. This their Lordships were sensible of, but not much concerned about it, since they were seldem sound long to continue in the same sort of adventures, variety being the life of their enjoyments. It

was, besides, near the time of his Majesty's going to Newmarket, when they designed that the discovery of their real plots, should clear them of the imputation of being concerned in any more pernicious to the Government. These two conjectures meeting, they thought themselves obliged to dispatch two important adventures, which they had not yet been able to compais. There was an old coverous mifer in the neighbourhood, who, notwithstanding his age, was in peffertion of a very agreeable young wife. Her husband watched her with the fame affiduity he did his money, and never trufted her out of his fight, but under the protection of an old maiden fifter, who never had herfelf experienced the joys of love, and bore no great benevolence to all who were young and handfome. Our noble inn-keepers had no manner of doubt of his accepting a treat, as many had dones for he loved good living with all his heart, when it cost him nothing; and, except upon these occasions, he was the most temperate and abstemious man alive: but then they could never prevail with him to bring his wife, notwithflamling they urged the presence of fo many good wives in the neighbourhood to keep her company. All their fludy was then how to deceive the old lifter at home, who was let as a guardian over that fruit which the miser

mifer could neither eat himself, nor suffer any other to tafte; but such a difficulty as this was foon to be overcome by fuch inventions." It was therefore agreed, that Lord Rochester should be dressed in woman's clothes, and, while the husband was feasting with my Lord Duke, he should make trial of his skill with the old woman at home. He had learned that the had no aversion to the bottle, when she could come fecretly and conveniently at it. Equipped like a country lass, and furnished with a bottle of spirituous liquors, he marched to the old mifer's house. It was with difficulty he found means to fpeak to the old woman. but at last obtained the favour; where, perfect in all the cant of those people, he began to tell the occasion of his coming, in hopes she would invite him to come in, but all in vain; he was admitted no farther than the porch, with the house door a-jar. At last, my Lord finding no other way, fell upon this expedient: he pretended to be taken fuddenly ill, and tumbled down upon the threshold. This noise brings the young wife to them, who, with much trouble, perfuades her keeper to help her into the house, in regard to the decorum of her fex, and the unhappy condition she was in. The door had not long been shut before our impostor by degrees recovers, and being set on a chair,

chair, cants a very religious thanksgiving to the good gentlewoman for her kindness, and observed how deplorable it was to be subject to fuch fits, which often took her in the street. and exposed her to many accidents; but every now and then took a fip of the bottle, and recommended it to the old benefactress, who was fure to drink a hearty dram. His Lordship had another bottle in his pocket, qualified with opium, which would fooner accomplish his design, by giving the woman a somniferous dose, which drinking with greediness, the foon fell fast asleep. His Lordship having fo far fucceeded, and being fired with the presence of the young wife, for whom he had formed this odd scheme, his defires became impetuous, which produced a change of colour, and made the artless creature imagine the fit was returning. My Lord then asked if the would be fo charitable as to let him lie down on the bed: the good-natured young woman showed him the way, and being laid down, and flaying by him at his request, he put her in mind of her condition, asking about her husband, whom the young woman painted in his true colours, as a furly, jealous old tyrant. The rural innocent, imagining she had only a woman with her, was less reserved in her behaviour and expressions on that ac-Vol. I. count.

count,

count, and his Lordship soon found that a tale of love would not be unpleasing to her. Being now no longer able to curb his appetite, which was wound up beyond the power of restraint, he declared his fex to her, and with

out much struggling enjoyed her.

He now became as happy as indulgence could make him; and when the first transports were over. he contrived the escape of this young adulteress from the prison of her keeper. She hearkened to his proposals with pleasure; and before the old gentlewoman was awake. the robbed her hufband of one hundred and fifty pieces, and marched off with Lord Rochefter to the inn, about midnight. They were to pass over three or four fields before they could reach it, and in going over the last they very nearly escaped falling into the enemy's hands; but the voice of the hufband difcovering who he was, our adventurers flruck down the field out of the path, and for the greater fecurity lay down in the grass. The place, the occasion, and the person that was so near, put his Lordship in mind of renewing his pleasure almost in fight of the cuckold. The fair was no longer coy, and easily yielded to his defires. He, in short, took the girl home, and then profittuted her to the Duke's pleasure,

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pleasure, after he had been cloyed himself. The old man going home, and finding his sister asleep, his wife sled, and his money gone, was thrown into a state of madness, and soon hanged himself.

The news was foon spread about the neighbourhood, and reached the inn, where both sovers, now as weary of their purchase as defirous of it before, advised her to go to London; with which she complied, and, in all probability, followed there the trade of prostitution for subsistence.

The King, foon after this infamous adventure, coming that way, found them both in their posts at the inn, took them again into favour, and suffered them to go with him to Newmarket.

This exploit of Lord Rochester is not at all improbable, when his character is considered; his treachery in the affair of the miser's wise, is very like him; and surely it was one of the greatest acts of baseness he was ever guilty of; he artfully seduced her, while her unsuspecting husband was entertained by the Duke of Buckingham; he contrived a robbery, and produced the death of her injured husband. This complicated crime was one of the heavy charges on his mind when he lay on his death-

# 136 JOHN WILMOT,

bed, under the dreadful alarms of his confcience.

His Lordship's amours at court made a great noise in the world of gallantry, especially that which he had with the celebrated Mrs. Roberts, mistress to the King, whom she abandoned for the possession of Rochester's heart. which she found, to her experience, it was not in her power long to hold. The Earl, who was foon cloyed with the poffession of any one woman, though the fairest in the world, for-The lady, after the first tumult of her paffion subfided, grew as indifferent, and confidered upon the proper means of retrieving the King's affection. The occasion was luckily given her one morning while she was dreffing: she saw the King coming by; the hurried down with her hair dishevelled, threw herfelf at his feet, implored his pardon, and vowed constancy for the future. The King, overcome with the well-diffembled agonies of this beauty, raised her up, took her in his arms, and protested no man could see her and not love her: he waited on her to her lodging, and there completed the reconciliation. This easy behaviour of the King had, with many other instances of the same kind, determined Lord Halifax to affert, "That the 66 love

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"love of King Charles II. lay as much as 44 any man's in the lower regions; that he was "indifferent as to their constancy, and only "valued them for the fenfual pleasure they " could yield." When Lord Rochester was restored again to the favour of King Charles II. he continued the same extravagant pursuits of pleafure, and would even use freedoms with that Prince, whom he had before so much offended; for his fatire knew no bounds, his invention was lively, and his execution sharp. He is supposed to have contrived, with one of Charles's mistresses, the following stratagem, to cure that monarch of the nocturnal rambles to which he addicted himself. He agreed to go out one night with him to visit a celebrated house of intrigue, where, he told his Majesty, the finest women in England were to be found. The King made no scruple to assume his usual difguife, and accompany him; and while he was engaged with one of the ladies of pleafure, being before instructed by Rochester how to behave, the picked his pocket of all his money and his watch, which the King did not immediately mis. Neither the people of the house, nor the girl herfelf was made acquainted with the quality of their vifiter, nor had the least suspicion who he was. When the intrigue was ended, the King enquired for Rochester, but was told

he had quitted the house, without taking leave: but into what embarraffment was he thrown, when, upon fearthing his pockets in order to discharge the reckoning, he found his money gone! he was then reduced to ask the favour of the Jezebel to give him credit till the next day, as the gentleman who came in with him had not returned, who was to have paid for both. The consequence of this request was, he was abused and laughed at: and the old woman told him, that she had often been ferved fuch dirty tricks, and would not permit him to flir till the reckoning/was paid; and then called one of her bullies to take care of him. In this ridiculous diffress flood the British Monarch—the prisoner of a bawd; and the life upon whom the nation's hopes were fixed, put in the power of a ruffian. After many altercations, the King at last proposed, that she should accept a ring, which he then took off his finger, in pledge for her money; which she likewise refused, and told him, that as she was no judge of the value of the ring, she did not choose to accept such pledges. The King then defired that a jeweller might be called, to give his opinion of the value of it; but he was answered, that the expedient was impracticable, as no jeweller could then be supposed to be out of bed: after much

much intreaty, his Majesty at last prevailed upon the fellow to knock up a jeweller and show him the ring, which as soon as he inspected, he stood amazed, and enquired, with eyes fixed upon the fellow, who he had got in his house? to which he answered, "A black-"looking ugly fon of a w\_\_\_\_, who had no " money in his pocket, and was obliged to pawn "his ring". "The ring," fays the jeweller, "is " fo immensely rich, that but one man in the " nation could afford to wear it; and that one is " the King." The jeweller, being aftonished at this accident, went out with the bully, in order to be fully fatisfied of fo extraordinary an affair; and as foon as he entered the room, he fell on his knees, and, with the utmost respect, presented the ring to his Majesty. The old Tezebel, and the bully, finding the extraordinary quality of their guest, were now confounded, and asked pardon most submissively on their knees. The King, in the best-natured manner, forgave them; and, laughing, asked them whether the ring would not bear another bottle.

Thus ended this adventure, in which the King learned how dangerous it was to rifque his person in night frolics, and could not but severely reprove Rochester for acting such a part towards him; however, he sincerely refolved.

folved, never again to be guilty of the like in-

These are the most material of the adventures and libertine courses of the Lord Rochefter, which hiftorians and biographers have transmitted to posterity. As to his genius, his principal turn feems to have been towards fatire; but being in this respect as licentious as in every thing elfe, his fatires ufually degenerate into mere libels; in all which he had so peculiar a talent of mixing his wit with his malice, that all his compositions are easily known. In regard to his other poems, which have been fo usually admired for their wit, as well as for their obscenity, they are too indelicate to deserve any particular notice. It is a compliment justly due to the more refined tafte of the present age, to say, that such gross productions no longer please, or can be even endured. They are, indeed, as a moral bard ftrongly expresses it, more apt to put out, than to kindle the fire. His tragedy of Valentinian, however, and some other pieces published by Tonson, show, that he was not incapable of more ferious and more innocent productions. By constant indulgence in fensuality, he entirely wore out an excellent constitution, before he was thirty years of age,

In October, 1679, when he was flowly recovering from a difease which had proved sufficiently powerful to make a ferious impression on him, he was visited by Bishop Burnet, on an intimation that fuch a vifit would not be disagreeable. It is natural to suppose, that the good Bishop has made the most of this affair. We have only his account of the matter; and, as far as that account may be relied upon, he made a perfect convert of this illustrious profligate; fo that, he who lived the life of a libertine and an atheift, died the death of a good Christian, and a fincere penitent. How far, however, that penitence which is extorted by affliction, and the horrors of an approaching diffolution, can be efteemed genuine, or effectual, is a question which it would not be very proper to discuss in this place.

Lord Rochester died in July, 1680, of mere old-age, before he had completed his thirty-third year; quite worn down, so that nature had not strength even for a dying groan. He lest behind him a son, and three daughters: the son died the year after his sather, so the male line ceasing, the title of the Earl of Rochester was transferred, by the King, to the family of Hyde, in the person of Laurence, a younger son of Edward Earl of Clarendon.

## JOHN OLDHAM.

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HIS eminent fatirical Poet was the fon I of the Rev. Mr. John Oldham, a Nonconformist Minister, and grandson to Mr. John Oldham, Rector of Nun-Eaton, near Tedbury, in Gloucestershire. He was born at Shipton (where his father had a congregation near Tedbury, and in the fame county) on the oth of Aug. 1653. He was educated in grammar learning, under the care of his father, till he was almost fitted for the University; and. to be completely qualified for that purpose, he was fent to Tedbridge School, where he fpent about two years, under the tuition of Mr. Henry Heaven, occasioned by the earnest request of Alderman Yeates, of Bristol, who, having a fon at the fame school, was defirous that Mr. Oldham should be his companion, which, he imagined, would much conduce to the advancement of his learning.

This, for some time, retarded Oldham in the prosecution of his own studies; but, for the time he lost in sorwarding Mr. Yeates's son, his father afterwards made him an ample amends. Mr. Oldham, being sent to Edmund hall in Oxford, was committed to the care of Mr. William Stephens; of which hall he be-

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came a Bachelor in the beginning of June, 1670. He was foon observed to be a good Latin scholar, and chiefly addicted himself to the study of poetry, and other polite acquirements. In the year 1674, he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, but lest the University before he completed that degree by determination, being, much against his will, compelled to go home and live some time with his father.

The next year he was very much afflicted for the death of his dear friend and constant companion Mr. Charles Mervent, as appears by his ode upon that occasion. In a short time after he became Ufher to the Free-school at Croydon in Surry. Here it was, he had the honour of receiving a vifit from the Earl of Rochefter, the Earl of Dorfet, Sir Charles Sedley, and other persons of distinction, merely upon the reputation of some verses which they had feen in manufcript. The mafter of the school was not a little surprised at fuch a vifit, and would fain have taken the honour of it to himself, but was soon convinced, that he had neither wit nor learning enough to make a party in fuch company. This adventure was, no doubt, very happy for Mr. Oldham, as it increased his reputation, and gained him the countenance of the great; for, after about three years continuance

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at Croydon school, he was recommended by his good friend Harman Atwood, Efq; to Sir Edward Thurland, a Judge, near Rygate, in the fame county, who appointed him tutor to his two grandsons. He continued in this family till 1680. After this he was some time tutor to a fon of Sir William Hicks, a gentleman living within three or four miles of London, who was intimately acquainted with a celebrated physician, Dr. Richard Lower, by whose peculiar friendship and encouragement, Mr. Oldham, at his leifure hours, studied phyfic for about a year, and made some progress in it; but the bent of his poetical genius was too firong for him to become a proficient in any school but that of the Muses. He freely acknowledges this in a letter to a friend, written in July, 1678. content radioaibns, and not

While filly I, all thriving arts refuse,
And all my hopes, and all my vigour lose,
In service of the worst of jilts, a Muse;
Oft, I remember, did wise friends dissuade,
And bid me quit the trifling barren trade.
Oft have I tried (Heaven knows) to mortify
This vile and wicked bent of poetry;
But still unconquer'd it remains within,
Fix'd as a habit, or some darling sin.
In vain I better studies there would sow;
Oft have I tried, but none will thrive or grow.
All my best thoughts, when I'd most serious be,
Are never from its foul intection free:

Nay,

Nay, God forgive me, when I say my prayers, I scarce can help polluting them with verse.

The fab'lous wretch of old revers'd I seem,
Who turn whate'er I touch to dross of rhime.

Our author had not been long in London. before he was found out by the noblemen who visited him at Croydon, and who now introduced him to the acquaintance of Mr. Dryden. But amongst the men of quality he was most affectionately careffed by William Earl of Kingston, who made him an offer of becoming his chaplain; but he declined an employment, to which fervility and dependence are fo neceffarily connected. The writer of his Life observes, that our author, in his satire addressed to a friend, who was about to quit the university, and come abroad into the world. lets his friend know, that he was frighted from the thought of fuch an employment, by the fcandalous fort of treatment which often accompanies it. This usage deters men of generous minds from placing themselves in such a station of life; and hence persons of quality are frequently excluded from the improving. agreeable conversation of a learned, obsequious In this fatire Mr. Oldham writes friend. thus :

Some think themselves exalted to the sky,

If they light on some noble family,

Vol. I,

Diet

Diet and horse, and thirty pounds a year, Befides th' advantage of his Lordship's ear, The credit of the bufiness, and the state, Are things that in a youngster's sense sound great, Little the unexperienc'd wretch does know What flavery he oft must undergo; Who, tho' in filken stuff and cassock drest, Wears but a gayer livery at best. When dinner calls, the implement must wait, With holy words to confecrate the meat; But hold it for a favour feldom known, If he be deign'd the honour to fit down. Soon as the tarts appear, Sir Crape, withdraw. Those dainties are not for a spir'tual maw. Observe your distance, and be sure to stand Hard by the ciftern, with your cap in hand : There, for diversion, you may pick your teeth, Till the kind voider comes for your relief. For mere board wages, fuch their freedom fell, Slaves to an hour, and vaffals to a bell; And if th' employments of one day be stole, They are but pris'ners out upon parole: Always the marks of flavery remain, And they, the loofe, still drag about their chain. And where's the mighty prospect after all? A Chaplainship serv'd up, and seven years thrall, The menial thing, perhaps, for a reward, Is to some flender benefice prefer'd, With this proviso bound, that he must wed My lady's antiquated waiting maid, In dreffing only skill'd, and marmalade. Let others, who fuch meannesses can brook; Strike countenance to ev'ry great man's look :

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Let those, that have a mind, turn slaves to eat,
And live contented by another's plate:
I rate my freedom higher, nor will I.
For food and raiment truck my liberty.
But if I must to my last shift be put,
To fill a bladder, and twelve yards of gut,
Richer with counterfeited wooden leg,
And my right arm ty'd up, I'll choose to beg.
I'll rather choose to starve at large, than be
The gaudiest vassal to dependency.

The above is a lively and animated description of the miseries of a slavish dependence on the great, particularly that kind of mortification which a chaplain must undergo. It is to be lamented, that gentlemen of an academical education should be subjected to observe so great a distance from those, over whom, in all points of learning and genius, they may have a superiority. Though in the very nature of things this must necessarily happen, yet a high spirit cannot bear it; and it is with pleasure we can produce Oldham, as one of those poets who have spurned dependence, and acted consistently with the dignity of his genius, and the lustre of his profession.

When the Earl of Kingston found that Mr. Oldham's spirit was too high to accept his offer of chaplainship, he then caressed him as a companion, and gave him an invitation to his house at Holmes-Pierpoint, in Nottingham-

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fhire.

shire. This invitation Mr. Oldham accepted. and went into the country with him, not as a dependent, but friend; he confidered himfelf as a Poet, and a Clergyman; and, in confequence of that, he did not imagine the Earl was the least degraded by making him his befom companion. Virgil was the friend of Mecænas, and shone in the court of Augustus; and, if it should be observed that Virgil was a greater poet than Oldham, it may be answered, Mecanas was a greater man than the Earl of Kingston, and the court of Augustus much. more brilliant than that of Charles II. Our author had not been long at the feat of this. Earl, before, being feized with the small-pox, he died, December 9, 1683, in the 30th year of his age, and was interred with the utmost decency, his Lordship attending as chief. mourner, in the church there, where the Earl soon after erected a monument to his memory.

Mr. Oldham's works chiefly confift of Satires, Odes, Translations, Paraphrases of Horace, and other authors; Elegiac Verses, Imitations, Parodies, Familiar Epistles, &c. In the second volume of the great Historical, Geographical, and Poetical Dictionary, he is styled the Darling of the Muses, a pithy, sententious, elegant, and smooth writer: "his translations exceed."

or exceed the original, and his invention feems " matchless. His satire against the Jesuits is " of special note; he may be justly said to have " excelled all the fatirists of the age." Though this compliment in favour of Mr. Oldham is certainly too hyperbolical, yet he was undoubtedly a great genius. He is not more to be reverenced as a Poet, than for that gallant fpirit of independence he discovered, and that magnanimity which scorned to stoop to any fervile submissions for patronage. He had many admirers among his cotemporaries, of whom Mr. Dryden professed himself one, and has done justice to his memory by some excellent verses, with which we shall close this account.

Farewell, too little, and too lately known,
Whom I began to think, and call my own;
For fure our fouls were near allied, and thine
Cast in the same poetic mould with mine.
One common note on either lyre did strike,
And knaves and fools were both abhorr'd alike;
To the same goal did both our studies drive,
The last set out, the soonest did arrive;
Thus Nisus fell upon the slipp'ry place,
While his young friend perform'd and won the race.
O early ripe! to thy abundant store
What could advancing age have added more?
It might, what Nature never gives the young,
Have taught the numbers of thy native tongue.

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But fatire needs not those, and wit will shine.
Thro' the harsh cadence of a rugged line:
A noble error, and but seldom made,
When poets are by too much force betray'd.
Thy gen'rous fruits, tho' gather'd ere their prime,
Still show'd a quickness; and maturing time
But mellows what we write to the dull sweets of rhime.
Once more, hail and farewell: farewell, thou young,
But, ah! too short, Marcellus of our tongue;
Thy brows with ivy, and with laurels bound,
But fate and gloomy night encompass thee around.

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#### WILLIAM MOUNTFORD.

This gentleman, who was very much distinguished as a Player, was born in the year 1659; but of what family we have no account, farther than that they were of Staffordshire. The extraordinary circumstances of Mr. Mountford's death have drawn more attention upon him, than he might otherwise have had; and though he was not very considerable as a Poet, yet he was of great eminence as an Actor. Mr. Cibber, in his Apology for his own Life, has mentioned him with the greatest respect, and drawn his character with strong touches of admiration. After having delineated the theatrical excellences of Kynafton,

## WILLIAM MOUNTFORD. ISI

fion, Sandford, &c. he thus speaks of Mountford:

Of person he was tall, well made, fair, and of an agreeable aspect; his voice clear, full.

"and melodious : in tragedy he was the most

affecting lover within my memory; his ad-

dresses had a resistless recommendation from

the very tone of his voice, which gave his

words fuch foftness, that, as Dryden says,

- Like flakes of feather'd fnow,

'They melted as they fell.'

He had a variety in his genius, which few

capital actors have shown, or perhaps have

' thought it any addition of their merit to ar-

This is the amiable representation which Mr. Cibber makes of his old favourite, and whose judgement in theatrical excellences has ever been indisputed. But this finished performer did not live to reap the advantages which would have arisen from the great figure he made upon the stage. He sell in the 33d year of his age, by the hand of an affassin, who cowardly murdered him, and sled from justice. As we imagine it will not be unpleasing to the reader to be made acquainted with the most material circumstances relating to that affair, we shall here insert them, as they appear on the trial of Lord Mohun, who

was arraigned for that murder, and acquitted by his peers. Lord Mohun, it is well known, was a man of loofe moral, a rancorous spirit, and, in short, restected no honour on his titles.

It is a true observation, that the temper and disposition of a man may be more accurately known by the company he keeps, than by any other means of reading the human heart : Lord Mohun had contracted a great intimacy with one Captain Hill, a man of scandalous morals. and despicable life; and was so fond of this fellow, whom, it feems, nature had wonderfully formed to be a cut-throat, that he entered into his schemes, and became a party in promoting his most criminal pleasures. This murderer had long entertained a passion for Mrs. Bracegirdle, fo well known as an excellent actress, and who died not many years ago, that it would be superfluous to give a particular account of her: his passion was rejected with disdain by Mrs. Bracegirdle, who did not think such a heart as his worth posfessing. The contempt with which she used Captain Hill, fired his resentment: he valued himself for being a gentleman, and an officer in the army, and thought he had a right, at the first onset, to triumph over the heart of an actress; but in this he found himself miserably

ably mistaken. Hill, who could not bear the contempt shown him by Mrs. Bracegirdle, conceived that her aversion must proceed from having previously engaged her heart to some. more favoured lover; and though Mr. Mountford was a married man, he became jealous of him, probably, from no other reafon, than the respect with which he observed Mr. Mountford treat her, and their frequently playing together in the fame fcene. Confirmed in this fuspicion, he resolved to be revenged: on Mountford; and, as he could not poffes Mrs. Bracegirdle by gentle means, he determined: to have recourse to violence, and hired someruffians to affift him in carrying her off. His. chief accomplice in this scheme was Lord: Mohun, to whom he communicated his intention, and who concurred with him in it. They appointed an evening for that purpose, hired a number of foldiers, and a coach, and went to the play-house in order to find Mrs. Bracegirdle; but she, having no part in the play of that night, did not come to the house. They then got intelligence that she was gone with. her mother, to sup at one Mrs. Page's in Drury-Lane; thither they went, and fixed their post, in expectation of Mrs. Bracegirdle's. coming out, when they intended to have executed their scheme against her. She at last: came ...

#### 154 WILLIAM MOUNTFORD.

Mrs. Page: the two adventurers made a figure to their hired braves, who laid their hands on Mrs. Bracegirdle; but her mother, who threw her arms round her waist, preventing them from thrusting her immediately into the coach, and Mrs. Page gaining time to eall affistance, their attempt was frustrated; and Mrs. Bracegirdle, her mother, and Mrs. Page, were safely conveyed to her own house in Howard-street in the Strand.

Lord Mohun, and Hill, enraged at this difappointment, resolved, since they were unsuccessful in one part of their design, they would yet attempt another; and, that night, vowed revenge against Mr. Mountsord. They went to the street where Mr. Mountsord lived, and there lay in wait for him: old Mrs. Bracegirdle, and another gentlewoman, who had heard them vow revenge against Mr. Mountford, sent to his house, to desire his wife to let him know his danger, and to warn him not to come home that night; but, unluckily, no mesfenger Mrs. Mountsord sent was able to find him.

Captain Hill and Lord Mohun paraded in the streets with their swords drawn; and when the watch made enquiry into the cause of this, Lord Mohun answered, that he was a Peer of

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the Realm, and dared them to touch him at their peril: the night-officers, being intimidated at this threat, left them unmolefted, and went their rounds. Towards midnight, Mr. Mountford going home to his own house, was faluted, in a very friendly manner, by Lord Mohun: and, as his Lordship seemed to carry no marks of refentment in his behaviour, he used the freedom to ask him, how he came there at that time of night: to which his Lordship replied, by asking, if he had not heard the affair of the woman: Mountford asked, What woman? to which he answered, "Mrs. Bracegirdle." "I hope," fays he, "my Lord, you do not encourage Mr. Hill "in his attempt on Mrs. Bracegirdle; which, "however, is no concern of mine." When he uttered these words, Hill, behind his back, gave him some desperate blows on his head: and before Mr. Mountford had time to draw. and stand on his defence, he basely run him through the body, and made his escape. The alarm of murder being given, the constable feized Lord Mohun, who, upon hearing that Hill had escaped, expressed great satisfaction, and faid, he did not care if he were hanged for him. When the evidences were examined at Hick's Hall, one Mr. Bencroft, who attended Mr. Mountford, declared to him, as a dying man,

man, that, while he was talking to Lord Mohun, Hill struck him with his left hand, and, with his right hand, run him through the body, before he had time to draw his sword. Thus fell the unfortunate Mountford, by the hand of an assassin, without having given him any provocation; save that which his own jealousy had raised, and which could not reasonably be imputed to Mountford as a crime.

Mr. Mountford, besides his extraordinary talents as an actor, is author of three dramatic pieces, many prologues and epilogues, &c. &c. He had a sprightly genius, and possessed a pleasing gaiety. He was killed in 1692.

## 

#### SAMUEL BUTLER,

THE author of Hudibras, was born at Strensham in Worcestershire, in 1612. His
stather, a reputable country farmer, perceiving
in his son an early inclination to learning, sent
him, for education, to the free-school of Worcester, under the care of Mr. Henry Bright;
where having laid the soundation of grammar
learning, he was sent for some time to Cambridge, but was never matriculated in that
University. After he had resided there six or
seven years, he returned to his native country,
and

and became Clerk to Mr. Jefferys of Earls Croom, an eminent Justice of the Peace for that sounty; with whom he lived for fome years in an easy, though, for such a genius, no very reputable fervice; during which time, through the indulgence of a kind mafter, he had sufficient leisure to apply himself to his favourite studies, history and poetry, to which, for his diversion, he added music and painting. Wood places our Poet's improvement in music and painting to the time of his fervice under the Countess of Kent, by whose patronage he had not only the opportunity of confulting all kinds of books, but of conversing also with the great Mr. Selden, who has justly gained the epithet of a Living Library of Learning, and was then conversant in that Lady's family; and who often employed our Poet to write letters beyond fea, and translate for him. He lived fome time, also, with Sir Samuel Luke, a gentleman of a good family in Bedfordshire, and a famous Commander under Oliver Cromwell.

'Much about this time,' fays the anonymous author of his Life, 'he wrote the re'nowned Hudibras, as he then had opportu'nities of conversing with the leaders of that
'party, whose religion he calls Hypocrify;
'whose politics, Rebellion; and whose speeches,
'Nonsense.' He was of an unshaken loyalty,
Vol. I.

P though

though he was placed in the house of a rebel: and it is generally thought, that under the character of Hudibras, he intended to ridicule Sir Samuel Luke. After the reftoration of Charles II. he was made Secretary to the Earl of Carbury, Lord Prefident of the Principality of Wales, who appointed him Steward of Ludlow Caftle, when the Court was revived there; and about this time he married one Mrs. Herbert, a gentlewoman of very good family. Anthony Wood fays, the was a widow, and that Butler supported himself by her jointure; for though, in his early years, he had studied the common law, yet he had made no advantage by the practice of it: but others affert, that she was not a widow, and that, though she had a competent fortune, it proved of little or no advantage to Butler, as most of it was unfortunately loft by being put out on bad fecurity. Mr. Wood likewife fays, that he was Secretary to the Duke of Buckingham, when that Lord was Chancellor of the Univerfity of Cambridge; and the Life-writer affures us, he had a great kindness for him: but the late ingenious Major Richardson Pack tells us a story, which, if true, overthrows both their affertions; and, as it is somewhat particular, we shall give it a place here. Mr.

Mr. Wycherley had taken every opportunity to represent to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, how well Mr. Butler had deferved of the Royal Family, by writing his inimitable Hudibras, and that it was a reproach to the Court, that a person of his loyalty and wit should languish in obscurity, under fo many wants. The Duke seemed always to hearken to him with attention, and, after fome time, undertook to recommend his pretenfions to his Majesty- Mr. Wycherley, in hopes to keep him fleady to his word, obtained of his Grace to name a day when he might introduce that modest, unfortunate Poet, to his new patron: at last an appointment was made. Mr. Butler and his friend attended accordingly, the Duke joined them; but, as the Devil would have it (fays the Major) the door of the room where he fat was open, and his Grace, who had feated himself near it, observing a pimp of his acquaintance (the creature too was a Knight) trip by with a brace of ladies, immediately quitted his engagement to follow another kind of bufiness, at which he was more ready than at doing good offices to men of defert, though no one was better qualified' than he, both in regard to his fortune and understanding, to protect them: and from that hour to the day of his death, poor Butler P 2 never

never found the least effect of his promise, and descended to the grave oppressed with

want and poverty.

Mr. Butler affords a remarkable instance of that coldness and neglect, which great geniuses often experience from the court and age in which they live. We are told, indeed, by a gentleman, whose father was intimate with Butler, Charles Longueville, Efq; that Charles I!. once gave him a gratuity of three hundred pounds, which had this compliment attending it, that it passed all the offices without any fee, Lord Danby being at that time High Treasurer; which seems to be the only Court favour he ever received: strange instance of neglect! when we confider King Charles was fo excessive fond of this poem of Hudibras, that he carried it always in his pocket, he quoted it almost on every occasion, and never mentioned it but with raptures.

After having lived to a good old-age, admired by all, tho' personally known but to few, he died, Sept. 25, 1680, and was buried at the expence of his good friend Mr. Longueville, of the Temple, in the Church-yard of St. Paul's, Covent-Garden, Mr. Longueville, and seven or eight more, following him to the grave. Mr. Alderman Barber erected a monument to Butler in Westminster Abbey.

The

The Life-writer before mentioned has preferved a fragment of Mr. Butler's, given by one whom he calls the ingenious Mr. Aubrey, who affured him he had it from the poet himfelf: it is indeed admirable, and the fatire fufficiently pungent against the Priests.

No Jesuit e'er took in hand:
To plant a church in barren land,
Nor ever thought it worth the while
A Swede or Russ to reconcile;
For where there is no store of wealth,
Souls are not worth the charge of health.
Spain in America had two designs,
To sell their gospel for their mines:
For had the Mexicans been poor,
No Spaniard twice had landed on their shore.
'Twas gold the Catholic religion planted,
Which, had they wanted gold, they still had wanted.

We cannot close the life of this great man, without a reflection on the degeneracy of those times, which suffered him to languish in obfcurity; and, though he had done more against the Puritan interest, by exposing it to ridicule, than thousands who were rioting at court with no pretensions to favour, yet he was never taken notice of, nor had any calamity redressed; which leaves a stain on those who then ruled, that never can be obliterated.

The following epigram is not unworthy a place here.

P 3

Whilft

Whilst Butler, needy wretch, was yet alive,
No gen'rous patron would a dinner give;
But, lo, behold! when dead, the mould'ring dust
Rewarded with a monumental bust!
A Poet's fate in emblem here is shown;
He ask'd for bread, and he receiv'd——a stone.



# SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

HIS great ornament of human nature, to literature, and to Britain, was the fon of Sir Henry Sidney, Knight of the Garter, and three times Lord Deputy of Ireland, and of Lady Mary Dudley, daughter to the Duke of Northumberland, and nephew to that great favourite, Robert Earl of Leicester. Oxford had the honour of his education, under the tuition of Dr. Thomas Thornton, Canon of Christ-Church. At the university he remained till he was seventeen years of age, and in June, 1572, fet out on his travels. On the 24th of August following, when the massacre fell out at Paris, he was then there, and, with other Englishmen, took shelter in Sir Francis Walfingham's house, her Majesty's Ambassa. dor at that Court. When this fform subsided, he departed from Paris, went through Lorrain, and by Strasburgh and Heydelburgh to Francfort,

Francfort, in September or October follow-. ing; where he fettled for fome time, and wasentertained Agent for the Duke of Saxony. At his return, her Majesty was one of the first who distinguished his great abilities, and, asproud of fo rich a treasure, she fent him Ambaffador to Rodolph the Emperor, to condole him on the death of Maximilian, and also toother princes of Germany. The next year, 1577, he went to the court of that gallant Prince Don John de Austria, Viceroy in the Low Countries for the King of Spain. John was the proudest man in his time; haughty and imperious in his behaviour, and always used the Foreign Ambassadors, who came to his Court, with unfufferable insolence and superiority. At first he paid but little respect to Sidney, on account of his youth, and feeming inexperience; but having had occafion to hear him talk, and give fome account of the manners of every court where he had been, he was fo ftruck with his vivacity, the propriety of his observations, and the lustre of his parts, that he ever afterwards used him with familiarity, and paid him more respect, in his private character, than he did to any Ambassador from whatever court.

Some years after this, Wood observes, that, in a book called Cabala, he set forth his rea-

### 164 SER PHILIP SIDNEY.

fons why the marriage of the Queen with the Duke of Anjou was disadvantageous to the nation. This address was written at the desire of the Earl of Leicester, his uncle, upon which a quarrel happened between him and the Earl of Oxford, which, perhaps, occasioned his retirement from court for two years; when he wrote that renowned romance called Arcadia. We find him again in high favour, when the treaty of marriage was renewed; he was engaged with Sir Fulk Greville in tilting for the diversion of the court; and at the departure of the Duke of Anjou from England, he attended him to Antwerp.

On the 8th of January, 1582, he received the honour of Knighthood from the Queen; and in the beginning of the year 1585, he defigned an expedition with Sir Francis Drake into America; but being hindered by the Queen, who thought the court would be deficient without him, he was made Governor of Flushing, (about that time delivered to the Queen for one of the cautionary towns) and General of the Horse. In both these places of important truft, his behaviour in point of prudence and valour was irreproachable, and gained additional honour to his country, especially when, in July, 1586, he furprifed Aceil, and preserved the lives and reputation

tation of the English army, at the enterprise of Gravelin.

About that time he was in election for the crown of Poland; but the Queen refused to promote this his glorious advancement, not from jealous, but from fear of losing the jewel of her times. He united the statesman, the scholar, and the soldier; and, as by the one he purchased same and honour in his life, so by the other he has acquired immortality after death.

In the year 1586, when that unfortunate fland was made against the Spaniards before Zutphen, the 22d of September, when he was getting upon the third horse, having had two flain under him before, he was wounded with a musket shot out of the trenches, which broke the bone of his thigh. The horse he rode upon was rather furiously choleric, than bravely proud, fo forced him to forfake the field, but not his back, as the nobleft and fittest bier (fays Lord Brook) to carry a martial commander to his grave. In this progrefs, paffing along by the rest of the army, where his uncle, the Earl of Leicester (then general) was, and being faint with excess of bleeding, he called' for drink, which was presently brought him; but as he was putting the bottle to his mouth. he faw a poor foldier carried along, who had been

been wounded at the same time, wishfully cast up his eyes at the bottle; whereupon, Sir Philip took it from his own mouth before he drank, and delivered it to the poor man, with these words, "Thy necessity is yet greater "than mine;" and when he had affifted this poor foldier and fellow-fufferer, as he called him, he was presently carried to Arnheim. where the principal furgeons of the camp attended him. When the furgeons began to dress his wound, he told them, that while his ftrength was yet entire; his body, free from a fever, and his mind able to endure, they might freely use their art, cut and search to the bottom; but, if they should neglect their art, and renew torments in the declination of nature, their ignorance, or over-tenderness, would prove a kind of tyranny to their friend, and reflect no honour on themselves. For fome time they had hopes of his recovery; and fo zealous were they to promote it, and everjoyed at its feeming approach, that they foread the report of it, which foon reached London, and diffused general joy at court-At the same time Count Hollock was under the care of a most excellent surgeon, for a wound in his throat by a musket shot; yet he neglected his own extremity to fave his friend, and for that purpose sent him to Sir Philip. This

This surgeon, notwithstanding, out of love to his master, returning one day to dress his wound, the Count cheerfully asked him how Sir Philip did: he answered, with a dejected look, that he was not well: at these words the Count, as having more sense of his friend's wound than his own, cried out, "Away, "villain! never see my face again till you "bring better news of that gentleman's reco-"very, for whose redemption many such as "I were happily lost." Finding all the efforts of the surgeons in vain, he began to put no more considence in their skill, and resigned himself with heroic patience to his sate.

After his death, which happened on the 16th of October, the states of Zealand became suitors to his Majesty, and his noble friends, that they might have the honour of burying his body at the public expence of their Government: but in this they were denied; for soon after, his body was brought to Flushing, and being embarked with great solemnity, on the 1st of November, landed at Tower Wharf on the 6th of the said month; and the 16th of February sollowing, after having lain in state, it was magnificently deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral. As the suneral of many princes has not exceeded it in solemnity, so few have equalled it in the undissembled sorrow for his

lofs. For a great many months after his death. it was reckoned indecent in any gentleman to appear splendidly dressed; the public mourned him, not with exterior formality, but with the

genuine forrow of the heart.

Of all our poets he feems to have been the most courtly, the bravest, the most active, and in the moral fense, the best .- King James writ an epitaph upon him, and the Muses of Oxford, lamenting him, composed elegies to his memory. It may be juftly faid of this great man, what a celebrated poet has applied to Archbishop Laud, w our manufaction of

Around his tomb did Art and Genius weep; Beauty, Wit, Piety, and Bravery, were undissembled mourners.

It has been commonly reported, that Sir Philip, some hours before his death, enjoined a near friend to confign his works to the flames. What promise his friend returned, is uncertain; but if he broke his word to befriend the public, posterity has thanked him, and every future age will, with gratitude, acknowledge the favour,

Besides the celebrated Arcadia, Sir Philip wrote various other pieces, which do honour to his memory.

The water that the best of the west

smooth as the form to vanished

# CHARLES SACKVILLE,

Earl of Dorset,

E LDEST son of Richard Earl of Dorset, born the 24th of January, 1637, was one of the most accomplished gentlemen of the age in which he lived, which was esteemed one of the most courtly ever known in our nation; when, as Pope expresses it,

The foldiers ap'd the gallantries of France, And ev'ry flow'ry courtier writ romance.

Immediately after the Restoration he was chosen Member of Parliament for East Grinflead, and diftinguished himself while he was in the House of Commons. The sprightliness of his wit, and a most exceeding good nature, recommended him very early to the favour of Charles II. and those of the greatest distinction in the court; but his mind being more turned to books, and polite conversation, than public business, he totally declined the latter, though, as Bishop Burnet says, the King courted him as a favourite. Prior, in his dedication of his poems, observes, that when the honour and fafety of his country demanded his affiftance. he readily entered into the most active parts of life, and underwent the dangers with a Vol. I. con-

constancy of mind, which showed he had not only read the rules of philosophy, but underflood the practice of them. He went a volunteer under his Royal Highness the Duke of York in the first Dutch war, 1665, when the Dutch Admiral Opdam was blown up, and about thirty capital fhips taken and destroyed; and his composing a fong before the engagement, carried with it, in the opinion of many people, fo fedate a prefence of mind, and fuch unufual gallantry, that it has been much cele-To maintain an evenness of temper in the time of danger, is certainly the highest mark of heroifm; but some of the graver cast have been apt to fay, this sedate composure somewhat differs from that levity of disposition, or frolic humour, that inclines a man to write a fong. But let us confider my Lord's fervour of youth, his gaiety of mind, supported by firong spirits, flowing from an honest heart, and, I believe, we shall rather be disposed to admire than centure him on this occasion. Remember, too, he was only a volunteer; the conduct of the battle depended not on him; he had only to show his intrepidity and wigilance, in executing the orders of his commander, when called on. As he had no plans of operation to take up his thoughts, why not write a fong? There was neither indecency

nor immorality in it. I doubt not but that, with cheerfulness of mind, he composed himfelf to rest, with as right seelings, and as proper an address to his Maker, as any one of a more melancholy disposition, and gloomy aspect. Most commanders, in the day of battle, assume at least a brilliancy of countenance, that may encourage their soldiers; and they are admired for it: to smile at terror, has, before this, been allowed the mark of a hero.

The dying Socrates discoursed his friends. with composure; he was a philosopher of a grave caft. Sir Thomas More (old enough to be my Lord's father) joked, even on the fcaffold; a strong instance of this heroism, and no contradiction to the rectifude of hismind. The verses the Emperor Adrian wrote on his death-bed (call them a long if you will) have been admired, and approved, by feveral great men : Mr. Pope has not only given his epinion in their favour, but elegantly translated them, nay, thought them worthy an linitation, perhaps exceeding the original. If this behaviour of my Lord's is liable to different constructions, let good nature and good manners incline us to beflow the most favourable thereon.

After his fatigues at fea, during the remainder of the reign of Charles II. he conti-

# CHARLES SACKVILLE.

nued to live in honourable leifure. He was of the Bed-chamber to the King, and possessed. not only his master's favour, but, in a degree, his familiarity, never leaving the court but when he was fent to that of France, upon short commissions, and embassies of compliment; as if the King defigned to rival the French in the article of politeness, who had long claimed a superiority in that accomplishment, by showing them that one of the most finished gentlemen in Europe was his subject, and that he understood his worth so well, as not to suffer him to be long out of his presence. Among other commissions, he was sent, in the year 1669, to compliment the French King on his arrival at Dunkirk, in return of the compliment of that Monarch by the Duchess of Orleans, then in England.

Being possessed of the estate of his uncle the Earl of Middlesex, who died in the year 1674, he was created Earl of that county, and Baron of Cranfield, by letters patent dated the 4th of April, 1675, 27 C. II. and in August, 1677, fucceeded his father as Earl of Dorfet; as also in the post of Lord-Lieutenant in the county of Suffex, having been joined in the commission with him in 1670. Also, the 20th of February, 1684, he was made Custos Rotulorum

for that county.

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The Earl of Dorset appeared in court at the trial of the Seven Bishops, accompanied with other noblemen; which had a good effect on the Jury, and brought the Judges to a better temper than they had usually shown. He also engaged with those who were in the Prince of Orange's interest; and carried on his part of that enterprise in London, under the eye of the Court, with the same courage and resolution as his friend the Duke of Devonshire did in open arms at Nottingham. When Prince George of Denmark deferted King James, and joined the Prince of Orange, the Princess Ann. was in violent apprehensions of the King's difpleafure, and being defirous of withdrawing herfelf, Lord Dorfet was thought the properest guide for her necessary flight. She was secretly brought to him by his Lady's uncle, the Bifhop of London, who furnished the Princesswith every thing necessary for her flight to the Prince of Orange, and attended her northward as far as Northampton, where he quickly brought a body of horse to serve for her guard, and went from thence to Nottingham, to confer with the Duke of Devonshire. After the mifguided Monarch had withdrawn himfelf, Lord Dorfet continued at London, and was, one of those Peers who sat every day in the Council Chamber, and took upon them the Q 3 govern-

# 174 CHARLES SACKVILLE,

government of the realm, in this extremity, till some other power should be introduced. In the debates in Parliament immediately after this confusion, his Lordship voted for the vacancy of the throne, and that the Prince and Princess of Orange should be declared King and Queen of England, &c.

When their Majesties had accepted the crown of these realms, his Lordship was the next day sworn of the Privy Council, and declared Lord Chamberlain of the Household; 'A place,' fays Prior, 'which he eminently adorned by the grace of his person, the fineness of his breeding, and the knowledge and practice of what was decent and magnificent.' It appears by the history of England, that he had the honour to stand God-father, with King William, to a fon of the Prince and Princess of Denmark, born at Hampton-court, the 24th of July, 1689, and christened the 27th, by the name of William, whom his Majesty declared Duke of Gloucester. When the King had been earnestly entreated by the States of Holland, and the confederate Princes in Germany, to meet at a General Congress to be held at the Hague, in order to concert matters for the better support of the confederacy, and thereupon took shipping the 16th of January, 1692, his Lordship was among the Peers,

Peers, who, to honour their King and Courtry, waited on their Sovereign in that cold feafon. When they were two or three leagues off Goree, his Majesty having been, by bad weather, four days at fea, was fo impatient to go on shore, that, taking boat, and a thick fog arifing foon after, they were furrounded fo closely with ice, as not to be able either to make the shore, or get back to the ship: so that, lying twenty-two hours, enduring the most bitter cold, and almost despairing of life, they could hardly fland or speak at their landing; and his Lordship was so lame, that for fome time he did not recover; yet, on his return to England, he neither complained of the accident, nor the expence.

On the 2d of February, 1691, at a Chapter of the most Noble Order of the Garter, held at Kensington, his Lordship was elected one of the Knights Companions of this Order, with his Highness John-George, the fourth Elector of Saxony, and was installed at Windsor on the February following. He was constituted four times one of the Regents of the Kingdom in his Majesty's absence.

About the year 1698, his health sensibly declining, he lest public business to those who more delighted in it, and appeared only sometimes at a Council, to show his respect to the

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commission which he bore; for he had already tasted all the comfort which Court-favour could bestow: he had been high in office, respected by his Sovereign, and the idol of the people; but now, when the evening of life approached, he began to look upon such enjoyments with less veneration, and thought proper to dedicate some of his last hours to quiet and meditation. Being advised to go to Bath for the recovery of his health, he there ended his life on the 29th of January, 1705.6, and was buried at Witham on the 17th of February following.

Lord Dorset was a great patron of men of letters and merit. Dr. Sprat, Bishop of Rochester, celebrated for his polite writings, appealed to him, when under a cloud for the particle acted in the reign of King James II. and, by his Lordship's interest, preserved himself. To him Mr. Dryden dedicated his translation of Juvenal, in which he is very lavish in his Lordship's praise, and expresses his gratitude for the bounty he had received from him.

Mr. Prior (among others who owed their rife and fortune to Lord Dorset) makes this public acknowledgement, 'That he scarce knew what life was, sooner than he found himfelf obliged to his favour; or had reason to feel

'any forrow fo fenfibly, as that of his death.'
Mr. Prior then proceeds to enumerate the valuable

luable qualities of his patron; in which the warmth of his gratitude appears in the most elegant panegyric. I cannot imagine that Mr. Prior, with respect to his Lordship's morals, has in the least violated truth; for he has shown the picture in various lights, and has hinted at his Patron's errors as well as his graces and virtues. Among his errors was that of indulging paffion, which carried him into transports, of which he was often ashamed: and during these little excesses (says he) 'I have known his fervants get into his way, that they might make a merit of it immediately fafter; for he who had the good fortune to be chid, was fure of being rewarded for it.' His Lordship's poetical works have been published among the minor poets, 1749, in which his Lordship is very satirical upon Mr. Edward Howard, on his incomprehenfible poem called The British Princes. We shall conclude his life with the encomium Pope bestows on him, in the following beautiful lines:

Dorset, the grace of courts, the Muses pride, Patron of Arts, and judge of Nature, dy'd a The scourge of pride, the sanctify'd or great, Of sops in learning, and of knaves in state. Yet soft his nature, tho' severe his lay, His anger moral, and his wisdom gay.

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Bless'd Satirist! who touch'd the mean so true,
As show'd, vice had his hate and pity too:
Blest Courtier! who could King and Country please,
Yet sacred keep his friendship, and his ease:
Blest Peer! his great forefathers ev'ry grace,
Resecting, and resected in his race;
Where other Buckhursts, other Dorsets shine,
And patriots still, or poets deck the line.

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# JOHN PHILIPS,

A POET of very considerable eminence, was son of Dr. Stephen Philips, Archdeacon of Salop, and born at Brampton in Oxfordshire, December 30, 1676.

After he had received a grammatical education at home, he was fent to Winchester School, where he made himself master of the Latin and Greek languages, and was soon distinguished for an happy imitation of the excellences which he discovered in the best classical authors. With this foundation he was removed to Christ-Church in Oxford, where he performed all his university-exercises with applause; and, besides other valuable authors in the poetical way, he became particularly acquainted with, and studied the works of Milton.

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The ingenious Mr. George Sewell, in his Life and Character of our Author, observes, 5 that there was not an allufion in Paradife Loft, drawn from the thoughts and expressions of Homer and Virgil, which Mr. Philips could not immediately refer to; and by that he perceived what a peculiar life and grace their fentiments added to English poetry; how much their images raifed its spirit, and what weight and beauty their words, when translated, gave to its language: nor was he less curious in observing the force and elegance of his mother-tengue; but, by the example of his darling Milton, searched backwards into the works of our old English Poets, to furnish him with proper-founding and fignificant expressions, and prove the due extent and compals of the language. For this purpose he carefully read over Chaucer and Spenfer, and afterwards, in his writings; did not feruple to revive any words or phrases which he thought deserved it; with that modefty and liberty which Horace allows of, either in the coining of new, or the restoring of ancient expressions?

Our author, however, was not fo much enamoured of poetry, as to neglect other parts of literature, but was very well acquainted with the whole compass of Natural Philoso-

phy. He seems, in his studies, as well as his writings, to have made Virgil his pattern, and often to have broke out with him in the sollowing rapturous wish, in the second book of the Georgics, which, for the sake of the English reader, we shall give in Mr. Dryden's translation.

- · Give me the ways of wand'ring stars to know,
- The depths of heav'n above, or earth below;
- . Teach me the various labours of the moon,
- And whence proceed th' ecliples of the fun;
- Why flowing tides prevail upon the main,
- And in what dark recess they shrink again;
- . What shakes the folid earth, what cause delays
- . The fummer nights, and the short winter days.

While Mr. Philips continued at the univerfity, he was honoured with the best and politest
men in it, and had a particular intimacy with
Mr. Edmund Smith, author of Phædra and
Hippolitus. The first poem which got him
reputation, was his Splendid Shilling, which
the author of the Tatler has styled the best
burlesque poem in the English language: 'nor
'was it only,' says Mr. Sewel, 'the finest of
'that kind in our tongue, but handled in a
'manner quite different from what had been
'made use of by any author of our own, or

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sany other nation; the fentiments and style

in this being both new; whereas, in those,

the jest lies more in allusions to the thoughts and

and fables of the ancients, than in the pomp of expression. The same humour is conti-"nued through the whole, and not unnaturally diversified, as most poems of that nature had been before. Out of that variety of circumflances, which his fruitful invention must fuggest to him on such a subject, he has not chosen any but what are diverting to every reader: and fome, that none but his inimitable dress could have made diverting to any: when we read it, we are betrayed into a pleasure which we could not expect, though at the fame time the fublimity of the ftyle. and the gravity of the phrase, seem to chaftife that laughter which they provoke. Mr. Edmund Smith, in his beautiful verses on this author's death, speaks thus concerning this poem:

In her best light the Comic Muse appears,

When the with borrow'd pride the bulkin wears.'

Our author's coming to London, we are informed, was owing to the persuasion of some great persons, who engaged him to write on the battle of Blenheim; his poem upon which introduced him to the Earl of Oxford, and Henry St. John, Esq; afterwards Lord Viscount Bolingbroke, and other noble patrons.

His swelling style, it must be owned, was better suited to a subject of this gravity and Vol. I. R im-

importance, than to that of a light and ludicrous nature: the exordium of this piece is poetical, and has an allusion to that of Spenser's Fairy Queen:

From low and abject themes, the groveling Muse Now mounts aërial, to sing of arms Triumphant, and emblaze the martial acts Of Britain's hero.

All that is left more of this poet, is a Latin Ode to Henry St. John, Efg; which is efteemed a master-piece, the style being pure and elegant, the subject of a mixt nature, resembling the fublime spirit and gay facetious humour of Horace. 'He was beloved,' fays Dr. Sewell, by all who knew him; fomewhat referved and filent amongst strangers, but free, familiar, and eafy, with his friends: he was averse to disputes, and thought no time so ill fpent, and no wit fo ill used, as that which was employed in fuch debates: his whole life was diffinguished by a natural goodness, and well-grounded and unaffected piety, an universal charity, and a steady adherence to his principles: no one observed the natural and ' civil duties of life with a stricter regard, whether a fon, a friend, or a member of fociety; and he had the happiness to fill every one of

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these parts, without even the suspicion either

of undutifulness, infincerity, or disrespect.

Thus he continued to the last, not owing his virtues to the happiness of his constitution, but the frame of his mind; infomuch that, during a long fickness, which is apt to ruffle the smoothest temper, he never betrayed any discontent or uneasiness, the integrity of his blife ftill preserving the cheerfulness of his 'spirits; and, if his friends had measured their hopes of his life only by his unconcern in his fickness, they could not but conclude, that either his date would be much longer, for that he was at all times prepared for 'death.' He had long been troubled with a lingering consumption, attended with an afthma; and the fummer before he died, by the advice of his physicians he removed to Batley, where he got fome present case, but went from thence with only small hopes of recovery; and, upon the return of the diftemper, he died at Hereford, the 15th of February, 1708. He was interred in the Cathedral Church of that city, with an inscription upon his grave-stone, and had a monument erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey, by Sir Simon Harcourt, afterwards Lord Chancellor; the epitaph of which was written by Dr. Friend. Trouble is the state of the second

# Earl of HALIFAX,

TTAS born the 16th of April, 1661, and received the rudiments of his education at Westminster School: from thence he was removed to Trinity College in Cambridge, where, by the brightness of his parts, he was early diffinguished; and, coming to town soon after the death of King Charles the Second, he contracted an intimacy with the Earl of Dorfet, Sir Charles Sedley, and other wits of the age. After the accession of King William and Queen Mary, having attached himself to the Revolution interest, he was sworn one of the Council. He ferved in Parliament, for the cities of Durham and Westminster, at different times, and diffinguished himself by his speeches in the House of Commons, on several important affairs. He was constituted one of the Lards Commissioners of the Treasury on the 21st of March, 1691, and soon after sworn of the Privy Council. In 1694 he was made Chancellor and Under-treasurer of the Exchequer. In the year 1695, when the nation was diffressed by the ill state of the current coin of this kingdom, he projected the new coining of the filver money; and by his great prudence,

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# CHARLES MONTAGUE, 185

prudence, and indefatigable industry, brought it to bear. He likewise proposed issuing the Exchequer bills, to supply the great scarcity of money, which has since been made use of to the great benefit of the nation.

On the 16th of February, 1697-8, the House of Commons came to a resolution, That it is the opinion of this House, that the Honourable Charles Montague, Esq; Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his good services to this Government, does deserve his Majesty's favour."

His next concern was the trade to the East Indies, the fettlement of which had been long depending, and was looked on as fo nice and difficult, that it had been referred to the King and Council, and from them to the Parlia-. ment, who, May 26th, 1698, ordered a bill for fettling the trade to that place. Mr. Montague transacted this whole affair; and by his industry, and skill in touching the affections of the people, raised two millions, by only doubling the duties on paper, parchment, and falt; which to have done by any other means, was at that time matter of the utmost difficulty. These proofs of affection and zeal to his Majesty's person and government, induced the King to declare him First Lord Commisfioner of the Treasury; and, on the 16th of R 3 July

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July, 1698, to appoint him one of the persons to whose fidelity and honour he reposed the trust of Lords Justices of England, for the administration of Government during his abfence.

In the year 1700, his Lordship refigned the place of First Lord Commissioner of the Treafary, having obtained a grant of the office of Auditor of the Receipts of the Exchequer, vacant by the death of Sir Robert Howard : and on the 4th of December, the fame year, was advanced to the dignity of Baron Halifax, in the county of York. On the accession of Queen Anne, he was concerned in vindicating the memory of King William, and on all occasions showed a disinterested zeal in the service, of his country.

He first projected the equivalent which was given to the Scots, in order to promote the Union between the nations; and without which it had never been effected : and, as his Lordthip first moved for appointing Commissioners to treat of an Union between the two kingdoms, fo he had not only a great share in the treaty, as one of the Commissioners, but in caufing it to be ratified in Parliament; and he answered, with all the force of which he was mafter, the various objections made against it. And, further to firengthen the interest of the

Whigs,

Whigs, which he thought was effentially connected with the Protestant religion, his Lordthip proposed the bill for the naturalization of the illustrious House of Hanover, and for the better fecurity of the succession of the Crown in the Protestant Line; which being passed into an act, her Majesty made choice of him to carry the news to our late Sovereign. and to invest his fon with the enfigns of the most noble order of the Garter. On his arrival at Hangver, he was received with extraordinary marks of diffinction and honour. Halifax then went to the Hague, where he laid the foundation of a firiter alliance between Great Britain and the United Provinces. On his return to England, he was graciously received by the Queen, and continued in her favour till the change of the Ministry, in the year 1710. 2 301 22 4 3 3 3 4 4 0 3 3 5 6 10 0

On her Majesty's death, our author was one of the Regency nominated by King George the First, till his arrival; who was no sooner possessed of the Crown, than he showed him distinguishing marks of his favour, having so strenuously promoted his succession to the British throne. He had his Majesty's leave to resign his post of Auditor of the Exchequer to his nephew the Honourable George Montague; and after being made First Lord Com-

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missioner of the Treasury, and sworn of the Privy Council, he was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Halisax, and Viscount Sunbury, by letters patent bearing date the 26th of October, 1714; and before the end of that year, was installed one of the Knights Companions of the most noble order of the Garter, and made Lord Lieutenant of the county of Surry.

Lord Halifax died in the 54th year of his age, on the 19th of May, 1715, and on the 26th of the same month, was interred in General Monk's vault in Westminster Abbey: leaving no issue, his titles devolved on his ne-

phew, George late Earl of Halifax.

Confidered as a Poet, his Lordship makes a less respectable figure than the Earl of Dorfet: there is a languor in his verses, which seems to indicate, that he was not born with a poetical genius. That he was a lover of the Muses, there is not the least doubt, as we see him patronising the poets so warmly; but there is some difference between a propensity to poetry, and a power of excelling in it. His Lordship writ but sew things, and those not of the utmost consequence.

15 efektő köztetőlő kementőlevő, keldálági rozálágát velde 18 előközt kementőlő a közernekenedei melt interetteset figalót a illete 18 elő – keldálás a misszálásásásásásásását hazásásásásásásásás

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HIS eminent Comic Poet, who was born about the year 1640, was the eldest fon of Daniel Wycherley, Efq; of Cleve in Shropshire. When he was about fifteen years of age, he was fent to France, where he became a Roman Catholic; but, on his return to England, and becoming a Gentleman Commoner of Queen's College in Oxford, he was reconciled to the Protestant religion. He afterwards entered himself in the Middle Temple; but, making his first appearance in the town in the loofe reign of Charles II. when wit and gaiety were the favourite distinctions, he foon quitted the dry fludy of the law, and purfued things more agreeable to his own genius, as well as to the tafte of the age. As nothing was likely to take better than dramatic performances, especially comedies, he applied himself to this species of writing. On the appearance of his first play, he became acquainted with feveral of the first-rate wits, both of the court and town; and likewise with the Duchess of Cleveland. Mr. Dennis, in his letters, has given a particular relation of the beginning of his acquaintance with this celebrated beauty of the times, which is fingular

lar enough.—One day, Mr. Wycherley riding in his chariot through St. James's Park, he was met by the Duches, whose chariot jostled with his, upon which she looked out of her chariot, and spoke audibly, "You, Wycher-"ley, you are a son of a whore;" and then burst into a sit of laughter. Mr. Wycherley at first was very much surprised at this, but he soon recovered himself enough to recollect, that it was spoke in allusion to the latter end of a song in his first play, entitled Love in a Wood, or St. James's Park:

When parents are flaves,
Their brats cannot be any other;
Great wits, and great braves,
Have always a punk for their mother.

During Mr. Wycherley's furprise the chariots drove different ways: they were soon at a considerable distance from each other; when Mr. Wycherley recollecting, ordered his coachman to drive back, and overtake the lady. As soon as he got over-against her, he said to her, "Madam, you was pleased to bestow a "title upon me, which generally belongs to the fortunate: will your Ladyship be at the play to-night?" "Well," she replied, "what if I should be there?" "Why then," answered he, "I will be there to wait on your Ladyship, though I disappoint a fine wo-

man, who has made me an affignation." " So," faid she, " you are fure to disappoint a a woman who has favoured you, for one "who has not." "Yes," he replied, "if " The who has not favoured me is the finer woman of the two: but he who will be con-" flant to your Ladyship, till he can find a finer "woman, is fure to die your captive." The Dutchess of Cleveland, in consequence of Mr. Wycherley's compliment, was that night in the first row of the King's box, in Drury-Lane, and Mr. Wycherley in the pit under her, where he entertained her during the whole play; and this was the beginning of a correspondence between these two persons, which afterwards made a great noise in the town.

King Charles showed Mr. Wycherley signal marks of favour, and once gave him a proof of his esteem, which perhaps never any Sovereign Prince before had given to a private gentleman. Mr. Wycherley being ill of a sever, at his lodgings in Bow-street, the King did him the honour of a visit. Finding him extremely weakened, and his spirits miserably shattered, he commanded him to take a journey to the south of France, believing that the air of Montpelier would contribute to restore him, and assured him at the same time, that he would order him 5001. to defray the ex-

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pences of his journey. Mr. Wycherley accordingly went into France, and, having spent the winter there, returned to England, entirely restored to his former vigour. The King, shortly after his arrival, told him, that he had a son, who, he was resolved, should be educated like the son of a King, and that he could not choose a more proper man for his Governor, than Mr. Wycherley; for which service 15001. per annum should be settled upon him. Mr. Wycherley, however, such is the uncertain state of all human affairs, lost the favour of the King by the following means:

Immediately after he had received the gracious offer above mentioned, he went down to Tunbridge, where, walking one day upon the Wells-walk, with his friend Mr. Fairbeard, of Gray's-Inn, just as he came up to the bookfeller's shop, the Countess of Drogheda, a young widow, rich, noble, and beautiful, came there to enquire for the Plain Dealer. " Ma-"dam," fays Mr. Fairbeard, "fince you are "for the Plain Dealer, there he is for you," pufhing Mr. Wycherley towards her. "Yes," fays Mr. Wycherley, "this lady can bear of plain dealing; for the appears to be fo accomplished, that what would be a compli-"ment to others, would be plain dealing to " her."

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"I am not without my faults, any more than the rest of my sex; and yet, notwithstanding, I love plain dealing, and am never more fond of it than when it tells me of them." "Then, Madam," says Mr. Fairbeard, "you and the Plain Dealer seem defigned by Heaven for each other." In short,
Mr. Wycherley walked a turn or two with the Countess, waited upon her home, visited her daily at her lodgings while she staid at Tunbridge, and at her lodgings in Hatton-Garden after she went to London; where, in a little time, he married her, without acquainting the King.

But this match, so promising in appearance to his fortune and happiness, was actually the ruin of both. As soon as the news of it came to Court, it was looked upon as a contempt of his Majesty's orders; and Mr. Wycherley's conduct after his marriage occasioned this to be resented still more heinously; for he seldom or never went near the court, which made him thought downright ungrateful. The true cause of his absence, however, was not known. In short, the Lady was jealous of him to that degree, that she could not endure him to be one moment out of her sight. Their lodgings Vol. I.

were in Bow-street, Covent-Garden, over against the Cock; whither if he at any time went with his friends, he was obliged to leave the windows open, that his Lady might fee there was no woman in company. Nevertheless, she made him some amends, by dying in a reasonable time. She settled her fortune on him; but his title being disputed after her death, the expences of the law, and other incumbrances, fo far reduced him, that, not being able to fatisfy the importunity of his creditors, he was thrown into prison, where he languished several years; nor was he released till King James the Second, going to fee his Plain Dealer, was fo charmed with the entertainment, that he gave immediate orders for the payment of his debts; adding withal a penfion of 2001. per annum, while he continued in England: but the bountiful intentions of that Prince had not all the defigned effect, for Wycherley was athamed to give the Earl of Mulgrave, whom the King had fent to demand it, a full account of his debts. He laboured under these difficulties till his father died; and then, too, the estate that descended to him, was left under very uneasy limitations, fince, being only a tenant for life, he could not raise money for the payment of his debts. However, he took a method of doing it, which

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few suspected to be his choice; and this was making a jointure.

He had often declared, that he was resolved to die married, though he could not bear the thoughts of living in that state again; accordingly, just at the eve of his death, he married a young gentlewoman with 1500 l. fortune, part of which he applied to the uses he wanted it for. Eleven days after the celebration of these nuptials, he died, in December, 1715, and was interred in the vault of Covent-Garden church.

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# NICHOLAS ROWE, Esc.

W AS fon to John Rowe, Riq; Serjeant W at Law, was born at Little Berkford, in Bedfordshire, anno 1673. His education was begun at a private school in Highgate, from whence he was removed to Westminster school, where he was perfected in classical literature, under the samous severe Dr. Bulby. His father, designing him for his own profession, entered him, at sixteen years of age, a Student of the Middle Temple. He soon made a great progress in the law, and might have made a great figure in that profession, if the

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love of poetry and the belles lettres had not too much attracted his attention. At the age of twenty-five, he wrote his first tragedy, the Ambitious Step-Mother; the great success of which made him lay aside all thoughts of the law. His talent was altogether for tragedy; all his pieces of that kind being justly esteemed for the poetry and sentiments, although they are by many deemed faulty in respect to the plots, which, in general, are too thin and simple.

Being a great admirer of Shakespeare, he gave the public an edition of his plays; to which he prefixed an account of that great man's life: but the most considerable of Mr. Rowe's perfomances was a translation of Lucan's Pharsalia, which he just lived to finish, but not to publish; for it did not appear in print till ten years after his death. It may be justly faid of all Rowe's tragedies, that never poet painted virtue, religion, and all the relative and focial duties of life, in a more alluring dress, on the stage; nor were ever vice and impiety better exposed to contempt and abhorrence. The fame principles of liberty he had early imbibed himself, seemed a part of his conftitution, and appeared in every thing he wrote; and he took all occasions that fell in his way, to make his talents subservient to them. His Muse was so religiously chaste, that love

that I do not remember (fays Dr. Welwood) one word, in any of his plays or writings, that might admit of a double meaning in any point of decency or morals. There is nothing to be found in them, to flatter a depraved populace, or humour a fashionable folly. Mr. Rowe's plays were written from the heart; he practifed the virtue he admired; and he never, in his gayest moments, fuffered himself to talk loosely or lightly upon religious or moral subjects, or to turn any thing facred, or which good men reverenced as fuch, into ridicule. His attachment to the Muses, however, did not entirely unfit him for bufiness; and when the Duke of Queen bury was Secretary of State, he made Mr. Rowe his Under-Secretary for public affairs: but, after the Duke's death, the avenues to his preferment being flopt, he passed his time in retirement during the rest of Queen Anne's reign. - While Mr. Rowe was thus without a patron, he went one day to pay his court to the Earl of Oxford, Lord High Treasurer of England, then at the head of the Tory faction, who asked him if he understood Spanish well? he answered, No; but, imagining that his Lordship might intend to fend him into Spain on some honourable commission, he presently added, that in a short time he did not doubt but he should be able both to understand it S 3

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and speak it. The Earl approving of what he faid, Mr. Rowe took his leave, and immediately retired out of town to a private country. farm; where, within a few months, he learned the Spanish tongue, and then waited again on the Earl, to give him an account of his diligenge. His Lordship asking him if he underflood it thoroughly, and Mr. Rowe answering in the affirmative, the Earl burft idto an exclamation, "How happy are you, Mr. Rowe, that you can enjoy the pleature of reading and understanding Don Quixote in the original! This wanton cruelty inflicted by his Lerdship, of raising expectations in the mind, that he never intended to gratify, needs only be told to excite indignation.

Upon the accession of King George the First to the throng, Mr. Rowe was made Poet Lauteat, and one of the Surveyors of the Customs in the port of London. The Prince of Wales conferred on him the place of Clerk of his Council, and the Lord Chaugellor Parker made him his Secretary for the Presentations, the very day he received the feals, and without his asking it. But he did not long enjoy these promotions; for he soon after died, on the 6th of December, 1718, in the 45th year of his age. He was interred in Westminster Abbey, over against Chaucer; his body being attended

# NICHOLAS ROWE, Esc. 199

by a vast number of friends, and the Dean and Chapter officiating at the funeral. A tomb was afterwards erected to his memory, by his wife, for which Mr. Pope wrote an epitaph, which we shall here insert; not one word of which is hyperbolical, or more than he deserved.

Thy reliques, Rowe! to this sad shrine we trust,
And near thy Shakespeare place thy honour'd bust.
Oh! next him skill'd, to draw the tender tear,
For never heart selt passion more sincere:
To nobler sentiment to fire the brave,
For never Briton more disdain'd a slave!
Peace to thy gentle shade, and endless rest,
Blest in thy genius, in thy love too blest!
And blest, that timely from our scene remov'd
Thy soul enjoys the liberty it lov'd.

To these, so mourn'd in death, so lov'd in life!
The childless parent, and the widow'd wife,
With tears inscribes the monumental stone,
That holds their ashes, and expects her own.

Mr. Rowe had been twice married; by his first wife he had a son, and by his second a daughter.

Mr. Welwood has drawn the following amiable character of Rowe: His person was graceful and well made, his face regular and of a manly beauty; he had a quick and fruitful invention, a deep penetration, and a large compass of thought, with a singular dexte-

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firity and eafiness in communicating his opinions. He was mafter of most parts of polite learning, especially the classic authors, both Greek and Latin; he understood the French, Italian, and Spanish languages. He had a good tafte in philosophy, and having a firm impression of religion upon his mind, he took delight in divinity and ecclefiaftical history. in both which he made great advances in the times he retired to the country, which were frequent. He expressed, upon all occasions, his full persuasion of the truth of revealed religion; and being a fincere member of the Eftablished Church himself, he pitied, but condemned not, those who departed from ' him : he abhorred the principle of perfecuting men on account of religious opinions, and, being first in his own, he took it not upon him to centure those of another persuation. His convertation was pleasant, witty, and elearned, without the least tincture of affectation or pedantry; and his inimitable manner of diverting, or enlivening the company, made it impossible for any one to be out of humour when he was in it : envy and detracction seemed to be entirely foreign to his conflitution; and whatever provocations he met with at any time, he passed them over, without the least thought of resentment or re-· venge.

levolent people, and some pretenders to poetry too, that would sometimes bark at his best performances; but he was too much conscious of his own genius, and had so much good-nature as to forgive them, nor could, how-ever, be tempted to return them an answer. Mr. Pope, in a letter to Edward Blunt, Esq: "fays, There was a vivacity and gaiety of disposition almost peculiar to Mr. Rowe, which made it impossible to part with him, without that uneasiness which generally succeeds all our pleasures."

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# JOHN SHEFFIELD, mid

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THIS Nobleman, who made a very great figure in the last age, as an Author, a Statesman, and a Soldier, was born about the year 1650. He lost his father when he was about nine years of age; and his mother soon after marrying Lord Ossulton, the care of his education was lest entirely to a governor, who, though a man of letters, did not much improve him in his studies. Having parted with his governor, with whom he travelled into France, he

he foon found, by converfing with men of genius, that he was much deficient in many parts of literature, and that, while he acquired the graces of a gentleman, he was yet wanting in those higher excellences, without which politeness makes but an indifferent figure, and can never raise a man to eminence. He posfessed an ample fortune, but for a while laid a restraint upon his appetites and passions, and dedicated, for some time, a certain number of hours every day to his studies; by which means he acquired a degree of learning, that entitled him to the character of a fine scholar. But, not content with that acquifition, our noble author extended his views yet farther; and, restless in the pursuit of distinction, we find him, at a very early age, entering himfelf a volunteer in the fecond Dutch war; and accordingly he was in that famous naval engagement, where the Duke of York commanded as Admiral, on which occasion his Lordthip behaved to gallantly, that he was appointed commander of the Royal Catharine, a fecondrate man of war. His Lordship, in his own memoirs, tells us, that when he entered himself a volunteer under his Royal Highness the Duke of York, he was then deeply engaged, and under the fost influence of love : he fays, he never shall forget the tenderness of parting from

from his mistress. On this account double honour is due to him; to enter the bustle of
war, without any other call but that of honour, at an age when most young noblemen
are under the tuition of a dancing-master, argued a generous intrepid nature; but to leave
the arms of his mistress, to tear himself from
her he doated on, in order to serve his country,
carries in it yet a higher degree of merit, and
ought to put all young men of fortune to the
blush, who would rather meanly riot in luxurious ease at home, than do honour to themselves and their country, by endeavouring to
serve it.

His Lordship acknowledges, in the abovementioned memoirs, that the Duke of York did wonders in the engagement; and that he was as intrepid in his nature, as some of his enemies supposed him to be of an opposite character; though, says he, alluding to what afterwards happened, missortunes, age, and other accidents, will make a great man differ from himself.

We find, our young nobleman, while he was on board a ship, amidst the noise of the crew, could yet indulge his genius for poetry. One would imagine that the ocean is too boisterous an element for the Muses, whose darling wish is for ease and retirement; yet we find him, amidst

amidst the roaring of winds and waves, open his poem with these soothing lines:

Within the filent shades of soft repose,
Where Fancy's boundless stream for ever flows;
Where the enfranchis'd soul at ease can play,
Tir'd with the toilsome bus'ness of the day;
Where Princes gladly rest their weary heads,
And change uneasy thrones for downy beds;
Where seeming joys delude despairing minds,
And where ev'n jealousy some quiet sinds;
There I, and sorrow, for a while could part,
Steep clos'd my eyes, and eas'd a sighing heart.

Our author afterwards made a campaign in the French service.

As Tangier was in danger of being taken by the Moors, he offered to head the forces which were to defend it; and accordingly he was appointed commander of them. He was then Earl of Mulgrave, and one of the Lords of the Bedchamber to King Charles the Second. In May 28, 1674, he was installed Knight of the Garter.

As he now began to be eminent at court, it was impossible but he must have enemies; and these enemies being mean enough to hint stories to his prejudice, in regard to some ladies, with whom the King was not unconcerned, his Lordship's command was not made so agreeable as it otherwise would have been. The particulars

particulars of this affair have been disputed by historians: some have imagined it to refer to some celebrated courtezan, whose affections his Lordship weaned from the King, and drew them to himself; but Mrs. Manly, in her New Atalantis, and Boyer, in his History of Queen Anne, affign a very different cause: they fay, that before the Lady Anne was married to Prince George of Denmark, fhe encouraged the addresses which the Earl of Mulgrave was bold enough to make her; and that he was sent to Tangier to break off the

correspondence.

This account is more probably true than the former, when it is considered, that by fending the Earl to Tangier, a scheme was laid for destroying him, and all the crew on board the same vessel; for the ship which was appointed to carry the General of the forces, was in fuch a condition, that the Captain of her declared, he was afraid to make the voyage. Upon this representation, Lord Mulgrave applied both to the Lord Admiral, and the King himself: the first faid, the ship was safe enough, and no other could be then procured: the King answered him coldly, that he hoped it would do, and that he should give himself no trouble about it. His Lordship was reduced to the extremity either of going in a leaky Vol. I. fhip.

ship, or absolutely refusing, which he knew his enemies would impute to cowardice; and, as he abhorred the imputation, he resolved, in opposition to the advice of his friends, to hazard all; but at the same time advised several volunteers of quality, not to accompany him in the expedition, as their honour was not so much engaged as his; some of whom wisely took his advice, but the Earl of Plymouth, natural son of the King, piqued himself in running the same danger with a man who went to serve his father, and yet was used so strangely by the ill offices of his Ministers.

Providence, however, defeated the ministerial scheme of affassination, by giving them the finest weather during the voyage, which held three weeks; and by pumping all the time, they landed safe at last at Tangier, where they met with Admiral Herbert, asterwards Earl of Torrington, who could not but express his admiration at their having performed such a voyage in a ship he had sent home as unsit for service: but such was the undisturbed tranquillity and native sirmness of the Earl of Mulgrave's mind, that in this hazardous voyage, he composed the poem, part of which we have quoted.

Had the Earl of Mulgrave been guilty of any offence, capital or otherwise, the Ministry might

## DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM. 201

might have called him to account for it; but their contriving, and the King's confenting to so bloody a purpose, is, methinks, such a stain upon them, as can never be wiped off; and, had that nobleman and the ship's cow perished, they would have added actual murder to concerted baseness.

Upon the approach of his Lordship's forces, the Moors retired; and the result of this expedition was, the blowing up of Tangier.

Some time after, the King was appealed; the Earl forgot the ill offices that had been done him, and enjoyed his Majesty's favour to the last.

He continued in feveral great posts during the fhort reign of King James the Second, till that Prince abdicated the throne. As the Earl constantly and zealously advised him against several imprudent measures, which were taken by the Court, the King, some months before the Revolution, began to grow cooler towards him, but yet was so equitable as not to remove him from his preferments: and after the King loft his crown, he had the inward fatisfation to be conscious, that his counsels had not contributed to that Prince's misfortunes; and that himself, in any manner, had not forfeited his honour and integrity. That his Lordship was no violent friend to, or pro-T 2 moter

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moter of, the Revolution, feems to appear from his conduct during that remarkable æra; and particularly from the unfinished relation he lest concerning it, which was suppressed, some years ago, by order of the Government.

In a passage in his Lordship's writings, it appears, he was unwilling that King James should leave England. Just as the King was stepping into bed, the night before his going away, the Earl of Mulgrave came into the bed-chamber, which, being at so late an hour, might possibly give the King some apprehenfions of that Lord suspecting his design, with which he was refolved not to truft him, nor any Protestant: he therefore stopped short, and turned about to whisper him in the edr. that his Commissioners had newly fent him a very hopeful account of some accommodation with the Prince of Orange; to which that Lord only replied with a question, asking him if the Prince's army halted, or approached nearer to London: the King owned they fill marched on; at which the Earl shook his head, and faid no more, only made him a low bow, with a dejected countenance, humbly to make him understand, that he gave no credit to what the King's hard circumftances at that time obliged him to diffemble. It also appears that the Earl of Mulgrave was one of those Lords who. · The state of

who, immediately after the King's departure, fent letters to the fleet, to the abandoned army of King James, and to all the confiderable garrisons in England, which kept them in order and subjection, not only to the present authority, but that which should be fettled afterwards. To his Lordship's humanity was owing the protection King James obtained from the Lords in London, upon his being feized, and infulted by the populace at Feverfham in Kent; before which time; days he, the Peers fat daily in the Council-Chamber at Whitehall, where the Lord Mulgrave one morning happened to be advertised privately, that the King had been feized by the angry rabble at Feversham, and had fent a poor country man with the news, in order to procure his refcue, which had like to come too late, as the messenger had waited long at the council-door, without any body's being willing to take notice of him. This fad account moved him with great compassion, at so extraordinary an inflance of worldly uncer-, tainty; and no cautions of offending the prevailing party were able to restrain him from flowing a little indignation at formean a proceeding in the Council; upon which, their new Prefident, the Marquis of Halifax, would have adjourned it haftily, in order to prevent 6 him

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'him; but the Lord Mulgrave earnestly coniured them all to fit down again, that he s might acquaint them with a matter that admitted of no delay, and was of the highest importance imaginable. Accordingly the Lords, who knew nothing of the bufiness, could not but hearken to it; and those few that guessed at it, and faw the confequence, yet wanted time for concerting together about fo nice, and very important a matter, as faving or lofing a King's life. The Lords then fat down again; and he represented to them what barbarity it would be, for fuch an Affembly to connive at the rabble's tearing to pieces even a private gentleman, much more a great Prince, who, with all his Popery, was ftill their Sovereign; fo that mere shame obliged them to suspend their politics a while, and seall in the meffenger, who told them with ears, how the King had engaged him to deliver a letter from him to any persons he could find willing to fave him from fo imminent a danger. The letter had no superscripsion, and was to this effect; to acquaint the reader of it, that he had been discovered in his retreat by some fishermen of Kent, and " fecured at first there by the gentry, who were afterwards forced to refign him into the hands of an infelent rabble. Upon fo pressing an coccation.

occasion, and now so very publicly made known, the Council was furprised, and under some difficulty; for, as there was danger of displeasing by doing their duty, so there was no less by omitting it, fince the law makes it highly criminal in fuch an extremity; besides, that most of them, as yet unacquainted with the Prince of Orange, s imagined him prudent, and consequently capable of punishing so base a desertion, either out of generolity or policy. These found f afterwards their caution needless; but at prefent it influenced the Council to fend 200 of the life-guards, under their Captain the Earl of Feversham, first to rescue the King from all danger of the common people, and afterwards to attend him to the fea-fide, if he continued his resolution of retiring, which they thought it more decent to connive at, than to detain him here by force."

Whoever has the least spark of generosity in his nature, cannot but highly applaud this tender conduct of his Lordship's towards his Sovereign in distress, and look with contempt on the slowness of the Council in dispatching a force to his relief, especially when we find it was only out of dread, less they should displease the Prince of Orange, that they sent any 2 this showed a meanness of spirit, a want

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of true honour, to fuch a degree, that the Prince of Orange himself could not, consistently with good policy, trust those worshippers of power, who could hear, unconcerned, that their late Sovereign was in the hands of a vile rabble, and entreating them in vain for rescue.

The Earl of Mulgrave made no mean compliances to King William, immediately after the Revolution; but when he went to pay his addresses to him, he was well received; yet did he not accept of a post in the Government

till fome years after.

May the 10th, in the fixth year of William and Mary, he was created Marquis of Normanby, in the county of Lincoln. When it was debated in Parliament whether the Prince of Orange should be proclaimed King, or the Princess his wife reign solely in her own right, he voted and spoke for the former, and gave these reasons for it: that he thought the title of either person was equal; and since the Parliament was to decide the matter, he judged it would much better please that Prince, who was now become their protector; and was also in itself a thing more becoming so good a Princess as Queen Mary, to partake with her husband a crown so obtained, than to possess it entirely as her own. After long debates in Parliament, the crown at last was settled upon William

# DUKE of BUCKINGHAM. 213

William and Mary. Burnet, Lord Bishop of Salisbury, whose affection for the Revolution mone, I believe, can doubt, freely acknowledges, that the King was resolved not to hold the government by right of his wife; 'he would not think of holding any thing by apron-strings:' he was jealous of the friends of his wife, and never forgave them; and, last of all, he threatened to leave them in the lurch, that is, to retire to Holland, with his Dutch army; so restless, says Mulgrave in another place, is ambition in its highest scenes of success.

During the reign of King William, however, he enjoyed fome confiderable posts, and was generally pretty well in his favour and confidence. April 21, 1702, he was fworn Lord Privy Seal, and the same year appointed one of the Commissioners to treat of an Union between England and Scotland, and was made Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum for the North-Riding of Yorkshire, and one of the Governors of the Charter-House. March o. 1703, he was created Duke of Normanby, and on the 10th of the same month, Duke of Buckingham. In 1711, he was made Steward of her Majesty's Household, and President of the Council; and on her decease, was one of the Lords Juftices in Great Britain till King George

George arrived from Hanover. Her Majesty some time after offered to make him Chancellor, which he thought proper to refuse. He was out of employment for some time, during which he did not so much as pay his compliments at Court, till he married his third wise, and then went to kis her Majesty's hand.

The Duke of Buckingham, though reckoned haughty and ill-natured, was yet of a tender, compassionate disposition; but, as the best characters have generally some allay, he is allowed to have been very passionate; but after his warmth subsided, he endeavoured to atone for it by acts of kindness and beneficence to those upon whom his passion had vented itself.

Several years before his Grace died. he was well known to have expressed some concern for the libertinism of his youth, especially regarding the fair fex, in which he had indulged himself very freely. He was survived only by one legitimate fon, but left feveral natural children. Our noble author has been charged. by fome of his enemies, with the fordid vice of covetouinels, but without foundation; for, as a strong indication that he was not avaricious, he lost a considerable part of his fortune, merely by not taking the pains to vifit, during the space of forty years, his estates at some distance from London; and whoever is acquainted 46 (00)

quainted with human nature knows, that indo! lence and covetousness are incompatible. His Grace died the 24th of February, 1720, in the 75th year of his age, and after lying in state for some days at Buckingham House, was carried from thence with great suneral solemnity, and interred in Westminster Abbey, where a monument is erected to his memory. The Duke of Buckingham's works speak him a beautiful prose writer, and a very considerable spoet, which is proved by the testimony of some of the best writers, his cotemporaries.

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# SIR RICHARD STEELE.

THIS celebrated Genius was born in Ireland, about the year 1676, in which kingdom one branch of the family was possessed of a considerable estate in the county of Wexford. His father, a Counsellor at Law in Dublin, was Private Secretary to James Duke of Ormond; but he was of English extraction, and his son, while very young, being carried to London, he put him to school at the Charter-house, whence he was removed to Merton College in Oxford, where he was admitted a Post-master in 1692. His inclination and genius

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#### 216. STR RICHARD STEELE

nius being turned to polite literature, he commenced author during his residence in the university, and actually finished a comedy, which, however, he thought proper to sup-

press, as unworthy of his genius.

Mr. Steele was well beloved and respected by the whole fociety, and had a good interest with them after he left the university, which he did without taking any degree, in the full resolution to enter into the army. This step was highly difpleafing to his friends; but the ardour of his passion for a military life rendered him deaf to any other proposal. Not being able to procure a better station, he entered as a private foldier in the horse-guards. notwithstanding he thereby lost the succession to his Irish estate. However, as he had a flow of good nature, a generous openness and frankness of spirit, and a sparkling vivacity of wit, these qualities rendered him the delight of the foldiery, and procured him an Enfign's commission in the guards. In the mean time, as he had made choice of a profession, which set him free from all the ordinary restraints of youth, he spared not to indulge his inclinations in the wildest excesses. Mr. Steele was born with the most violent propension to pleafure, and at the same time was master of so much good fense, as to be able to discern the extreme to a

#### SIR RICHARD STEELE. 217

extreme folly of licentious courses, their moral unfitness, and the many calamities they naturally produce: he maintained a perpetual struggle between reason and appetite: he frequently fell into indulgences, which cost him many a pang of remorfe; and, under the conviction of the danger of a vicious life, he wrote his Christian Hero, with a design to fix upon his own mind a strong impression of virtue and religion. But this fecret admonition to his conscience he judged too weak, and, in the year 1701, printed the book with his name prefixed, in hopes that a standing evidence against himself, in the eyes of the world, might the more forcibly induce him to lay a restraint on his own defires, and make him afhamed of vice. fo contrary to his own fense and conviction. It was dedicated to Lord Cutts, who had not only appointed him his Private Secretary, but procured for him a company in Lord Lucas's regiment of Fufileers. The whole plan and tenor of our author's book was fuch a flat contradiction to the general course of his life, that it became a subject of much mirth and raillery: but these shafts had no effect; he perfevered invariably in the same contradiction. and, though he had no power to change his heart, yet his pen was never proftituted to his follies. Under the influence of that good fenfe, Vol. I. he

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he wrote his comedy called the Funeral. This play procured him the regard of King William, who resolved to give him some essential marks of his favour; and though, upon that Prince's death, his hopes were disappointed, yet, in the beginning of Queen Anne's reign, he was appointed to the profitable place of Gazette-writer. He owed this post to the friendship of Lord Halifax and the Earl of Sunderland, to whom he had been recommended by his schoolfellow Mr. Addison. That gentleman also lent him a helping hand in promoting the comedy called the Tender Husband, which was acted in 1704 with great success. But his next play, the Lying Lover, found a very different fate. Upon this rebuff from the stage, he turned the same humorous current into another channel; and early in the year 1700, he began to publish the Tatler; which admirable paper was undertaken in concert with Dr. Swift. His reputation was perfectly established by this work, and during the course of it he was made Commissioner of the Stamp-duties, in 1710. Upon the change of the Ministry, the same year, he sided with the Duke of Marlborough, who had feveral years entertained a friendship for him; and, upon his Grace's difinifion from all employments, in 1711, Mr. Steele addressed a letter of thanks

to him for the fervices done to his country. However, as our author still continued to hold his place in the Stamp-office, under the new Administration, he forbore entering with his pen upon political subjects: but, adhering more closely to Mr. Addison, he dropt the Tatler; and afterwards, by the affistance chiefly of that fleady friend, he carried on the fame plan, under the title of the Spectator. The fuccess of this paper was equal to that of the former, which encouraged him, before the close of it, to proceed upon the same design in the character of the Guardian. This was opened in the beginning of the year 1713, and was laid down in October the same year: but, in the course of it, his thoughts took a stronger turn to politics; he engaged with great warmth against the Ministry, and being determined to profecute his views that way, by procuring a feat in the House of Commons, he immediately removed all obstacles thereto. Having procured a licence for chief Manager of the Royal Company of Comedians, he eafily obtained it to be changed the fame year, 1714, into a patent for his Majesty George the First appointing him Governor of the faid company during his life; and to his executors, administrators or assigns, for the space of three years afterwards. He was also chosen one of the re-U 2 presentatives

#### 220 SIR RICHARD STEELE.

presentatives for Borough-bridge in Yorkshire, in the first Parliament of that King, who conferred the honour of Knighthood upon him, April 28, 1715; and, in August following, he received five hundred pounds from Sir Robert

Walpole for special services.

Thus highly encouraged, he triumphed over his opponents in feveral pamphlets written in this and the following year. In 1717, he was appointed one of the Commissioners for enquiring into the estates forseited by the late rebellion in Scotland. This carried him intothat part of the United Kingdom, where, how unwelcome a guest soever he might be to the generality, yet he received from feveral of the nobility and gentry the most distinguishing marks of respect. In 1718, he buried his second wife, who had brought him a handsome fortune, and a good estate in Wales; but neither that, nor the ample additions lately made to his income, were fufficient to answer his demands. The thoughtless vivacity of his spirit often reduced him to little shifts of wit for its support; and the project of the Fishpool, this year, owed its birth chiefly to the projector's necessities. While he was struggling with all his might to fave himself from ruin, he found time to turn his pen against the mifchievous South-Sea scheme, which had nearly brought www.inusbarq

brought the nation to ruin, in 1720; and the next year he made an advantage, by bringing his celebrated comedy, called the Confcious Lovers, upon the stage, where it was acted with prodigious fuccess; so that the receipt there must have been very considerable, besides the profits accruing by the fale of the copy, and a purse of five hundred pounds given to him by the King; to whom he dedicated it. Yet, notwithstanding these ample recruits, about the year following, being reduced to the utmost extremity, he fold his share in the play-house, and soon after commenced a lawfuit with the managers, which, in 1726, was determined to his disadvantage. Having now again, for the last time, brought his fortune, by the most heedless profusion, into a desperate condition, he was rendered altogether incapable of retrieving the loss, by being seized with a paralytic diforder, which greatly impaired his understanding.

In these unhappy circumstances, he retired to his feat at Languanor, near Caermarthen in Wales, where he paid the last debt to nature, on the 21st of September, 1729, and was privately interred, according to his own defire, in the church of Caermarthen. Among his papers were found the manuscripts of two plays; one called the Gentleman, founded upon

#### 222 SIR RICHARD STEELE.

upon the Eunuch of Terence; and the other, entitled the School of Action; both nearly finished.

Of three children, which Sir Richard had by his fecond wife, Elizabeth, being the only one then living, was married young, in 1731, to the Honourable John Trevor, then one of the Welfh Judges.

Sir Richard was a man of undistembled and extensive benewolence, a friend to the friendless, and, as far as his circumstances would permit, the father of every orphan. His works are chaste and manly. He was a stranger to the most distant appearance of envy or malevolence, never jealous of any man's growing reputation, and, so far from his arrogating any praise to himself, from his conjunction with Mr. Addison, that he was the first who desired him to distinguish his papers. He was certainly the most agreeable, and (if we may be allowed the expression) the most innocent rake, that ever trod the rounds of indulgence.

His greatest error was want of economy, as appears from the two following instances related by the elegant writer of Mr. Savage's life, to whom that gentleman communicated them.

Savage was once defired by Sir Richard, with an air of the utmost importance, to come

him; for Sir Richard told him he was with-

out .

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out money, and that the pamphlet must be fold before the dinner could be paid for : and

'Savage was therefore obliged to go and offer

their new production to fale for two guineas,

which with some difficulty he obtained. Sir

Richard then returned home, having retired

that day only to avoid his creditors, and composed the namphlet only to discharge his

' composed the pamphlet only to discharge his ' reckoning.'

The other instance is equally uncommon with the former:

Sir Richard having invited to his house a great number of persons of the first quality, they were surprised at the number of liveries which furrounded the table; and after dinnen, when wine and mirth had fet them free from the observance of rigid ceremony, one of them enquired of Sir Richard, how such an expensive train of domestics could be consistent with his fortune? Sir Richard frankly confessed, that they were fellows of whom he would very willingly be rid: and being then asked why he did not discharge them, he declared that they were bailiffs, who had introduced themselves with an execution, and whom, fince he could not fend their away, he had thought it convenient to embellish with liveries, that they might do him credit whilft they staid.

His

# SIR RICHARD STEELE. 225

His friends were diverted with the expedient, and by paying the debt discharged the attendants, having obliged Sir Richard to promise that they should never find him again graced with a retinue of the same kind.

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# ANDREW MARVEL, Esq.

THIS ingenious Gentleman was the fon of Mr. Andrew Marvel, Minister and School-master of Kingston upon Hull in Yorkshire, and was born in that town in the year 1620. He was admitted into Trinity College in Cambridge, December 14, 1633, where he had not been long before his studies were interrupted by the following accident:

Some Jesuits, with whom he familiarly conversed, observing in him a genius beyond his years, used their utmost efforts to proselyte him to their faith, which they imagined they could more easily accomplish while he was yet young. They so far succeeded as to seduce him from the college, and carry him to London, where, after some months absence, his father sound him in a bookseller's shop, and prevailed upon him to return to the college.

He afterwards pursued his studies with the most indefatigable application, and in the year 1638, took the degree of Batchelor of Arts, and the same year was admitted Scholar of the house, that is, of the foundation at Trinity College. We have no farther account of him for several years after this, only that he travelled through the most polite parts of the world; but in what quality we are not certain, unless in that of Secretary to the Embassy at

Constantinople.

Mr. Marvel's first appearance in public bustness at home, was in being affistant to Milton as Latin Secretary to the Protector. He himself tells us, in a piece called the Reliearfal Transposed, that he never had any, not the remotest relation to public matters, nor correfpondence with the persons then predominant, until the year 1657, when indeed, fays he, 'I entered into an employment, for which ! was not altogether improper, and which I confidered to be the most innocent, and inoffensive towards his Majesty's affairs, of any in that usurped and irregular government, to which all men were then exposed; and this · I accordingly discharged, without disobliging any one person, there having been opportunities and endeavours, fince his Majesty's happy return, to have discovered, had it been otherwise.'

A little

A little before the Restoration, he was chosen by his native town, Kingston upon Hull, to fit in that Parliament which began at Westminster, April 25, 1660; and again after the Restoration, for that which began at the same place, May 8, 1661. In this station our author discharged his trust with the utmost fidelity, and always showed a particular regard for those he represented; for he constantly fent the particulars of every proceeding in the House, to the heads of the town for which he was elected; and to those accounts' he always joined his own opinion. This refpectful behaviour gained fo much on their affections, that they allowed him an honourable pension to his death, all which time he continued in Parliament. Mr. Marvel was not endowed with the gift of eloquence, for he feldom spoke in the House; but was, however, capable of forming an excellent judgement of things, and was fo acute a difcerner of characters, that his opinion was greatly valued, and he had a powerful influence over many of the members without doors. Rupert particularly effeemed him, and, whenever he voted agreeably to the sentiments of Mr. Marvel, it was a faying of the opposite party, he has been with his tutor.' The intimacy between this illustrious foreigner and our author

thor was so great, that when it was unsafe for the latter to have it known where he lived, on account of some mischief with which he was threatened, the Prince would frequently visit him in a disguised habit. Mr. Marvel was often in such danger of assassination, that he was obliged to have his letters directed to him in another name, to prevent any discovery that way. He made himself obnoxious to the Government, both by his actions and writings; and notwithstanding his proceedings were all contrary to his private interest, nothing could ever shake his resolution, of which the sollowis a notable instance, and transmits our author's name with lustre to posterity.

One night he was entertained by the King, who had often been delighted with his company: his Majesty next day sent the Lord Treasurer Danby to find out his lodging. Mr. Marvel then rented a room up two pair of stairs, in a little court in the Strand, and was writing when the Lord Treasurer abruptly opened the door upon him. Surprised at the sight of so unexpected a visiter, Mr. Marvel told his Lordship, that he believed he had mistaken his way: the Lord Danby replied, Not now I have sound Mr. Marvel; telling him that he came with a message from his Majesty, which was to know what he could do to

ferve him? his answer was, in his usual face. tious manner, that it was not in his Majesty's power to ferve him : but, coming to a ferious explanation of his meaning, he told the Lord Treasurer, that he well knew the nature of Courts, and that whoever is diftinguished by a Prince's favour, is certainly expected to vote in his interest. The Lord Danby told him, that his Majesty had only a just sense of his merits, in regard to which alone, he defired to know whether there was any place at court he could be pleafed with. These offers, though urged with the greatest earnestness, had no effect upon him; he told the Lord Treasurer, that he could not accept it with honour, for he must either be ungrateful to the King by voting against him, or betray his country by giving his vote against its interest, at least what he reckoned so. The only favour therefore which he begged of his Majesty, was, that he would esteem him as dutiful a fubject as any he had, and more in his proper interest in rejecting his offers, than if he had embraced them.

The Lord Danby, finding no arguments would prevail, told him, the King had ordered a thousand pounds for him, which he hoped he would accept, till he could think what farther to ask of his Majesty. This last temptated. I.

230 ANDREW MARVEL, Esc. tion was refisted with the same stedsastness of mind as the first.

The reader must have already taken notice. that Mr. Marvel's chief support was the pension allowed him by his constituents, that his lodgings were mean, and confequently his circumstances at this time could not be affluent. His refifting these temptations, therefore, in fuch a fituation, was perhaps one of the most heroic inflances of patriotism the annals of England can furnish. But his conduct will be ftill heightened into a more amiable light, when it is related, that as foon as the Lord Treasurer had taken his leave, he was obliged to fend to a friend to borrow a guinea. As the most powerful allurements of riches and honour could never feduce him to relinquish the interest of his country, so not even the most immense dangers could deter him from purfuing it. In a private letter to a friend from Highgate, in which he mentions the insuperable hatred of his foes to him, and their defign of murdering him, he has these words, Præterea magis occidere metuo quam occidi; non quod vitam tanti aftimem, fed ne imparatus moriar. Befides, I am more apprehensive of killing than being killed; not that I value · life fo much, but that I may not die unprespared.

Mr. Marvel did not remain an unconcerned member of the State, when he faw encroachments made upon it both by the Civil and Ecclefiaftical powers. He faw that fome of the Bishops had formed an idea of Protestantism very different from the true one, and were making fuch advances towards Popery, as would foon iffue in a reconciliation. Amongst these Ecclesiastics, none was so forward as Dr. Samuel Parker, who published at London, 1672, in octavo, Bishop Bramhal's Vindication of Himfelf, and the Episcopal Clergy, from the Presbyterian Charge of Popery, as it is managed by Mr. Baxter in his Treatife on the Grotian Religion. Dr. Parker likewise preached up the doctrine of Non-refistance, which flavish principle is admirably calculated to prepare the people for receiving any yoke. Marvel, whose talent consisted in drollery, took his own method of exposing those opinions. He wrote a piece called the Rehearfal Transposed, in which he very successfully ridiculed Dr. Parker. This ludicrous effay met with feveral answers, some serious, and others humorous. Wood himfelf, who was an avowed enemy to Marvel, confesses, ' that Dr. Parker judged it more prudent rather to lay down the cudgels, than to enter the lifts again with an untowardly combatant, fo X 2 'hugely

s hugely well versed, and experienced, in the 5 then newly-refined art of sporting, and jeersing buffoonery.' And Bishop Burnet tells us, in the History of his own time, "that Dr. Parf ker, after he had for some years entertained the nation with feveral virulent books, was fattacked by the liveliest Droll of the age, who wrote in a burlefque ftyle, but with for ! peculiar and entertaining a conduct, that from the King down to the tradefman, his 5 book was read with great pleasure. This. only humbled Parker, but the whole party; for the author of the Rehearfal Tranfsposed had all the men of wit on his fide? Dr. Swift likewise, in his Apology for the Tale of a Tub, speaking of the usual fate of common answerers to books, and how shortlived their labours are, observes, 'That there-'is indeed an exception, when any great geinius thinks it worth his while to expose a, foolish piece; so we still read Marvel's anfwer to Parker with pleasure, though the book it answers be funk long ago.'

This great man died, not without strong suspicions of being poisoned, August 16, 1678, in the 58th year of his age, and was interred in the church of St. Giles's in the Fields; and in the year 1688, the town of Kingston upon. Hull contributed a sum of money to erect a monument

monument over him, in St. Giles's church, for which an epitaph was composed by an able hand; but the Minister of that church piously forbad both the inscription and monument to be placed there. Mr. Wood tells us, that in his conversation he was very modest, and of sew words; and Mr. Cooke observes, 'that he was very reserved among people he did not very well know; but a most delightful and improving companion amongst his friends.'

Mr. Marvel, considered as a Statesman, makes a more conspicuous figure than any of the age in which he lived, the preceding, or the subsequent: he possessed the first quality of a statesman, that is, inviolable integrity, and a heart so confirmed against corruption, that neither indigence, a love of pomp, or even dangers the most formidable, could move his settled purpose, to pursue in every respect the interest of his country. He has succeeded to a miracle in many pieces in the droll way of writing; and when he assuments a severity, and writes seriously, his arguments and notions are far removed from imbecillity.

As a Poet, I cannot better delineate his character than in the words of Mr. Cooke: 'There are few of his poems,' fays he, 'that have not fomething very pleafing in them, and fome he must be allowed to have excelled in:

X 3 'most

most of them seem to be the effect of a lively genius, and manly sense, but at the same time seem to want that correctness he was capable of making. His most finished pieces are upon Milton's Paradise Lost, and upon Blood's stealing the Crown, the latter of which is very satirical.

## On BLOOD's Stealing the Crown.

WHEN daring Blood, his rent to have regain'd, Upon the English diadem distrain'd; He chose the cassock, circingle, and gown, The fittest mask for one that robs the Crown; But his lay-pity underneath prevail'd, And, while he sav'd the keeper's life, he fail'd. With the Priest's vestment had he but put on The Prelate's cruelty, the crown had gone.

In his State Poems is contained much of the Secret History of King Charles II. in which time they were all written. They were composed on various occasions, and chiefly to expose a corrupt Ministry, and the violence of those who were for persecuting all that differed from them in opinion. There are some small pieces of his prose, which ought not to escape observation. From his Letter to Sir John Trott, there seems to have been a friendly correspondence between him and that gentleman. By his Familiar Letters, we may easily judge what part of his

his works are laboured, and what not. But

of all his pieces in profe, the King's Mock.

Speech to both Houses of Parliament has

o most of spirit and humour. As it will fur-

nish the best specimen of Mr. Marvel's ge-

enius for drollery, as well as the character of

that Prince and Ministry, shall here insert

it, as a performance of the most exquisite:

humour ever feen.

His MAJESTY'S most gracious SPEECH.
to Both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

ter was the fittest time for business; and truly I thought so, till my Lord Treasurer assured me the spring was the best season for Sallads and Subsidies. I hope, therefore, that April will not prove so unnatural a month, as not to afford some kind showers on my parched Exchequer, which gapes for want of them. Some of you, perhaps, will think it danger ous to make me too rich: but I do not fear it; for I promise you saithfully, whatever you give me I will always want; and although in other things my word may be thought a slender authority, yet, in that you may rely on me, I will never break it.

## 'My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CAN bear my ftraits with patience; but my Lord Treasurer does protest to me, that the revenue, as it now stands, will not serve him and me too. One of us must suffer for it, if you do not help me. I must speak freely to you,-I am under bad circumstances; for, besides my Harlots in service, my Reformado Concubines lie heavy upon me. I have a ' passable good estate, I confess; but, God's fish, I have a great charge upon't. Here's my Lord Treasurer can tell, that all the money defigned for next fummer's Guards, must, of necessity, be applied to the next year's Cradles ' and Swaddling-clothes. What shall we do for ships then? I only hint this to you, it being your bufiness, not mine. I know by experience I can live without ships. I lived ten years abroad without, and never had my health better in my life; but how you will be without, I leave to yourselves to judge, and therefore hint this only by the bye: I do not infift upon it. There's another thing I must press more earnestly, and that is this: it feems, a good part of my revenue will expire in two or three years, except you will be pleased to continue it. I have to say for't, s pray why did you give me fo much as you 6 have

#### ANDREW MARVEL, Esq. 237 have done, unless you resolve to give as fast as I call for it? The nation hates you already for giving fo much, and I'll hate you. too, if you do not give me more. So that, if you flick not to me, you must not have a friend in England. On the other hand, if you will give me the revenue I defire, I shall be able to do those things for your religion. and liberty, that I have had long in my thoughts, but cannot effect them without a \*little more money to carry me through: \* Therefore look to't, and take notice, that if vou do not make me rich enough to undo you, it shall lie at your doors. For my part, I wash my hands on't. But that I may gain. your good opinion, the best way is to acquaint you what I have done to deserve it; out of my royal care for your religion and your property. For the first, my proclamation is a true picture of my mind. He that: cannot, as in a glass, see my zeal for the Church of England, does not deserve any farther fatisfaction; for I declare him wilful, abominable, and not good. Some may, sperhaps be ftartled, and cry, How comes this. fudden change? To which I answer, I am, a changling: and that's fufficient, I think. But, to convince men farther, that I means what I fay, there are these arguments:

· First

'First, I tell you so; and you know I never break my word.

Secondly, My Lord Treasurer says so:

and he never told a lye in his life.

'Thirdly, My Lord Lauderdale will un-

dertake it for me; and I should be loth, by

' any act of mine, he should forfeit the credit

he has with you.

· If you defire more instances of my zeal, I have them for you. . For example, I have converted my natural fons from Popery; and I may fay, without vanity, it was my own work, so much the more peculiarly mine than 'Twould do one's heart begetting them. 5 good to hear how prettily George can read in the Pfalter. They are all fine children, God bles 'em, and so like me in their understanding !- But, as I was faying, I have, to please you, given a pension to your favourite, my Lord Lauderdale; not so much that I thought he wanted it, as that you would take it kindly. I have made Carwell Duchess of Portsmouth, and married her fister to the Earl of Pembroke. I have, at my brother's request, fent my Lord Inchequin into Barbary, to fettle the Protestant religion among the Moors, and an English interest at Tanegier. I have made Crew Bishop of Durham, and, at the first word of my Lady Ports-" mouth,

mouth, Prideaux Bishop of Chichester. I

know not, for my part, what factious men

would have; but this I am fure of, my pre-

decessors never did any thing like this, to

gain the good-will of their subjects. So

" much for your religion; and now for your pro-

perty. My behaviour to the Bankers is a

\* public instance; and the proceedings between

Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Sutton, for private

ones, are fuch convincing evidences, that it

will be needless to say any more to't.

'I must now acquaint you, that, by my Lord Treasurer's advice, I made a considerable retrenchment upon my expences of candles and charcoal, and do not intend to stop there, but will, with your help, look into the late embezzlements of my dripping-pans and kitchen-stuff; of which, by the way, upon my conscience, neither my Lord Treasurer, nor my Lord Lauderdale, are guilty. I tell you my opinion; but if you should find them dabbling in that business, I tell you plainly, I leave 'em to you; for, I would have the world to know, I am not a man to

' My Lords and Gentlemen,

be cheated.

'I DESIRE you to believe me as you have found me; and I do folemnly promise you, that whatsoever you give me shall be specially managed,

managed, with the same conduct, fincerity; and prudence, that I have ever practifed;

fince my happy restoration.

We shall conclude the life of Mr. Marvel, by presenting the reader with that Epitaph which was intended to be inscribed on his tomb, in which his character is drawn in a very masterly manner.

Near this place
Lieth the body of Andrew Marvel, Esq.
A man so endowed by nature,
So improved by education, study, and travel,
So consummated by experience and learning,
That, joining the most peculiar graces of wit
With a singular penetration and strength of judgement,
And exercising all these in the whole course of his life,
With unalterable steadiness in the ways of virtue,
He became the ornament and example of his age;
Beloved by good men, seared by bad, admired by all,
Tho imitated, alas! by few;

Tho' imitated, alas! by few;

And scarce parallelled by any,

But a tomb-stone can neither contain his character,

Nor is marble necessary to transmit it to posterity.

It is engraved in the minds of this generation,

And will be always legible in his inimitable writings.

Nevertheless.

He having served near twenty years successively in Parliament, And that, with such wisdom, integrity, dexterity, and courage,

As became a true patriot;

The town of Kingston upon Hull,

From whence he was constantly deputed to that Assembly,

Lamenting in his death the public loss,

Have

a

Have erected this monument of their grief and gratitude,

He died in the 58th year of his age,
On the 16th day of August, 1678.
Heu fragile humanum genus! heu terrestria vana!
Heu quem spectatum continet urna virum!



## MRS. ELIZABETH THOMAS.

HIS Lady, who is known in the world by the poetical name of Corinna, feems to have been born for misfortunes: her very bitterest enemies could never brand her with any real crime, and yet her whole life was one continued scene of misery. The family from which she sprung was of a rank in life beneath envy, and above contempt. She was the child of an ancient and infirm parent, who gave her life when he was dying himself, and to whose unhappy constitution she was sole heiress. From her very birth, which happened 1675, the was afflicted with fevers and defluxions, and being over-nursed, her constitution was so delicate and tender, that, had the not been of a gay disposition, and possessed a vigorous mind. the must have been more unhappy than she actually was. Her father dying when she was fcarcely two years old, and her mother Vol. I.

not knowing his real circumstances, as he was supposed, from the splendour of his manner of life, to be very rich, some inconveniences were incurred in bestowing upon him a pompous funeral, which in those times was fashionable. The mother of our poeters, in the bloom of eighteen, was condemned to the arms of this man, upwards of fixty, upon the supposition of his being wealthy, but in which, as she soon found. the was miferably deceived. When the grief, which so young a wife may be supposed to feel for an aged husband, had fubfided, she began to enquire into the state of his affairs, and found, to her unspeakable mortification, that he died not worth one thousand pounds. As Mrs. Thomas was a woman of good fense, and a high spirit, she disposed of two houses her husband kept, one in town, the other in the county of Essex, and retired into a private, but decent country lodging. The chambers in the Temple, her husband possessed, she fold to her brother for four hundred and fifty pounds, which, with her husband's books of accounts, fhe lodged in her truftee's hands; who being foon after burnt out by the fire in the Paperbuildings in the Temple, she lost considerably. Not being able to make out any bill, she could form no regular demand, and was obliged to be determined by the honour of her husband's clients.

clients, who, though persons of the first fashion, behaved with very little honour to her. The deceased had the reputation of a judicious lawyer, and an accomplished gentleman, but was too honest to thrive in his profession, and had too much humanity even to become rich. Of all his clients, but one lady behaved with any appearance of honesty. The Countess Dowager of Wentworth, having then loft her only daughter, the Lady Harriet, told Mrs. Thomas, 'That she knew she had a large reckoning with the deceased; but,' fays she, as you know not what to demand, fo I know. not what to pay: come, Madam, I will do better for you than a random reckoning: I have now no child, and have taken a fancy to your daughter; give me the girl, I will breed her as my own, and provide for her as ' fuch when I die.' The widow thanked her Ladyship, but with a little too much warmth replied, ' she would not part with her child on any terms; which the Countess resented to fuch a degree, that she would never see her more, and dying in a few years, left 15001. per annum inheritance, at Stepney, to her chambermaid.

Thus were misfortunes early entailed upon this lady. A proposal, which would have made her opulent for life, was defeated by the unreasonable

reasonable sondness of her mother, who lived to fuffer its difmal consequences, by tasting the bitterest distresses. We have already obferved, that Mrs. Thomas thought proper to retire to the country with her daughter. The house where she boarded was an eminent clothworker's in the county of Surry, but the people of the house proved very disagreeable. The lady had no conversation to divert her; the landlord was an illiterate man, and the rest of the family brutish and unmannerly. At last Mrs. Thomas attracted the notice of Dr. Glyffon, who, observing her at church very splendidly drest, sollicited her acquaintance. He was a valuable piece of antiquity, being then in the hundredth year of his age. He enjoyed a found judgement, and a memory fo tenacious and clear, that his company was very engaging. His vifits greatly alleviated the folitude of this lady. The last visit he made to Mrs. Thomas, he drew on, with much attention, a pair of rich Spanish leather gloves, emboffed on the backs and tops with gold embroidery, and fringed round with gold plate. The lady could not help expressing her curiofity to know the history of those gloves, which he feemed to touch with fo much refpect. He answered, 'I do respect them; for the last time I had the honour of approaching 'my

my mistress Queen Elizabeth, she pulled

them from her own royal hands, faying,

"Here, Glysson, wear them for my fake."

I have done so with veneration, and never

drew them on but when I had a mind to honour

those whom I visit, as I now do you; and

fince you love the memory of my royal mif-

tress, take them, and preserve them carefully

'when I am gone.' The Doctor then went

home, and died in a few days.

This gentleman's death left her again without a companion; and an uneafines hung upon her, visible to the people of the house; who, guessing the cause to proceed from solitude, recommended to her acquaintance another physician, of a different cast from the former. He was denominated by them a Conjurer, and was said to be capable of raising the devil. This circumstance diverted Mrs. Thomas, who imagined, that the man whom they called a conjurer, must have more sense than they understood.

The Doctor was invited to vifit her, and appeared in a greafy black grogram, which he called his Scholar's-coat, a long beard, and other marks of a philosophical negligence. He brought all his little mathematical trinkets, and played over his tricks for the diversion of the lady, whom, by a private whisper, he let Y 3 into

into the secrets as he performed them, that she might fee there was nothing of magic in the case. The two most remarkable articles of his performance were, first, lighting a candle at a glass of cold water, (performed by touching the brim before with phosphorus, a chymical fire which is preserved in water, and burns there) and next, reading the smallest print by a candle of fix in the pound, at a hundred yards distance in the open air, and darkest night. This was performed by a large concave glass, with a deep-pointed focus, quickfilvered on the back-fide, and fet in tin, with a focket for a candle, sconce fashion, and hung up against the wall. While the flame of the candle was diametrically opposite to the centre, the rays equally diverging, gave so powerful a light as is scarce credible; but, on the least variation from the focus, the charm ceased.

The lady discerning in this man a genius which might be improved to better purposes than deceiving the country people, desired him not to hide his talents, but to push himself in the world, by the abilities of which he seemed possessed. 'Madam,' said he, 'I am now a siddle to asses; but I am finishing a great 'work, which will make those asses siddle to 'me.' She then asked what that work might be: he replied, 'His life was at stake if it

took air; but he found her a lady of fuch uncommon candour, and good fense, that he
should make no difficulty in committing his
life and hope to her keeping.

All women are naturally fond of being trufted with secrets; this was Mrs. Thomas's failing: the Doctor found it out, and made her pay dear for her curiofity. 'I have been,' continued he, ' many years in fearch of the Philosopher's Stone, and long mafter of the Smaragdine-table of Hermes Trifmegiftus: the Green and Red Dragons of Raymond Lully have also been obedient to me, and the sillustrious Sages themselves deign to visit me: yet it is but fince I had the honour to be known to your Ladyship, that I have been fo fortunate as to obtain the grand fecret of Projection. I transmuted some lead, I pulled off my window last night, into this bit of 'gold.' Pleased with the fight of this, and having a natural propension to the study, the lady fnatched it out of the philosopher's hand. and asked him why he had not made more? He replied, 'It was all the lead I could find,' She then commanded her daughter to bring a parcel of lead which lay in the closet, and giving it to the chymist, defired him to transmute it into gold on the morrow. He undertook it, and the next day brought her an ingot which weighed

weighed two ounces, which, with the utmost folemnity, he avowed was the very individual lead fhe gave him, transmuted to gold. She began now to engage him in ferious discourse; and finding by his replies, that he wanted money to make more powder, she enquired how much would make a flock that would maintain itself. He replied, one fifty pounds after nine months would produce a million. She then begged the ingot of him, which he protested had been transmuted from lead, and, flushed with the hopes of fuccess, hurried to town to examine whether the ingot was true gold, which proved fine beyond the standard. The lady, now fully convinced of the empyric's declarations, took fifty pounds out of the hands of a banker, and entrusted him with it. The only difficulty which remained, was, how to carry on the work without fuspicion, it being firially prohibited at that time. He was therefore resolved to take a little house in another' county, at a few miles distance from London, where he was to build a public laboratory, as a professed chymist, and deal in such medicines as were most vendible, by the fale of which to the apothecaries, the expence of the house was to be defrayed during the operation. The Widow was accounted the housekeeper, and the Doctor and his man boarded with

with her; to which she added this precaution. that the laboratory, with the two lodgingrooms over it, in which the Doctor and his man lay, was a different wing of the building from that where she and her little daughter; and maid-fervant, refided; and, as the knew some time must elapse before any profit could be expected, she managed with the utmost frugality. The Doctor, mean time, acted the part of a tutor to Mis, in Arithmetic, Latin, and Mathematics, to which she discovered the strongest propensity. All things being properly disposed for the grand operation, the vitriol furnace was fet to work, which requiring the most intense heat for several days, unhappily fet fire to the house; the stairs were confumed in an inflant, and, as it furprised them all in their first sleep, it was a happy circumstance that no life perished. This unlucky accident was 300 l. loss to Mrs. Thomas: yet still the grand project was in a fair way of fucceeding in the other wing of the building. But one m sfortune is often followed by another: the next Sunday evening, while fhe was reading to, and inftructing her little family, a fudden and a violent report, like a difcharge of cannon, was heard: the house, being timber, rocked like a cradle, and the family were all thrown from their chairs on the ground.

ground. They looked with the greatest amazement on each other, not gueffing the cause, when the operator, pretending to revive, fell to stamping, tearing his hair, and raving like a madman, crying out, Undone! undone! loft and undone for ever! He ran directly to the athanor, when, unlocking the door, he found the machine split quite in two, the eggs broke, and that precious amalgamum which they contained, was scattered like fand among the ashes. Mrs. Thomas's eyes were now fufficiently opened to discern the imposture, and, with a very serene countenance, the told the empyric, that accidents will happen, but means might be fallen upon to repair this fatal disappointment. The Doctor, observing her so ferene, imagined she would grant him more money to complete his scheme; but she foon disappointed his expectation, by ordering him to be gone, and made him a present of five guineas, lest his desperate circumstances should induce him to take some violent means of providing for himself, Whether deluded by a real hope of finding out the Philosopher's Stone, or from an innate principle of villainy, cannot be determined; but he did not yet cease his pursuit, and still indulged the golden delusion. He now found means to work upon the credulity of a rich old mifer, who, upon the

the strength of his pretensions, gave him his daughter in marriage, and embarked all his hoarded treasure, which was very considerable, in the same chimerical adventure. In a word, the miser's stock was also lost; the empyric himself, and the daughter, reduced to beggary. The Doctor put an end to his life by drinking poison. But to return to Mrs. Thomas.

The poor lady fuffered on this occasion a great deal of inward anguish; she was ashamed of having reduced her fortune, and impoverished her child, by listening to the infinuations of a madman. Time and patience at last overcame it; and when her health, which by this accident had been impaired, was restored to her, she began to ftir amongst her husband's great clients. She took a house in Bloomsbury, and by means of good œconomy, and an elegant appearance, was supposed to be better in the world than she really was. Her husband's clients received her like one rifen from the dead: they came to visit her, and promised to serve her. At last the Duke of Montague advised her to let lodgings, which way of life she declined, as her talents were not fuited for dealing with ordinary lodgers: but,' added she, 'if I knew any family who defired fuch a conveniency, I would readily accommodate them.' I take you at your word.

word,' replied the Duke, 'I will become vour sole tenant : nav, don't simile, for I am in earnest: I love a little freedom more than I can enjoy at home, and I may come fometimes, and eat'a bit of mutton, with four or five honest fellows, whose company I de-'light in'.' The bargain was bound, and proved matter of fact, though on a deeperscheme than drinking a bottle: and his Lordthip was to pass in the house for Mr. Freeman of Hertfordshire. In a few days he ordered a dinner for his beloved friends, Jack and Tom, Will and Ned, good honest country fellows, as his Grace called them. came at the time appointed; but how furprised was the widow, when she law the Duke of Devonshire, the Lords Buckingham and Dorfet, and a certain Viscount, with Sir William Dutton Colt, under these feigned names! After feveral times meeting at this lady's house, the noble persons, who had a high opinion of her integrity, entrusted her with the grand fecret, which was nothing less than the project for the Revolution.

Though these meetings were held as private as possible, yet suspicions arose, and Mrs. Thomas's house was narrowly watched; but the messengers, who were no enemies to the cause, betrayed their trust, and suffered the noblemen

Noblemen to meet unmolested, or at least without any dread of apprehension. The Revolution being effected, and the State become more fettled, that place of rendezvous was quitted: the Noblemen took leave of the Lady, with promises of obtaining a pension, or fome place in the household, for her, as her zeal in that cause highly merited. Besides, fhe had a very good claim to fome appointment. having been ruined by the flutting-up of the Exchequer. But, alas! court-promises proved an aërial foundation, and these noble Peers never thought of her more. The Duke of Montague indeed made offers of service, and being Captain of the band of Pensioners, she asked him to admit Mr. Gwynnet, a gentleman who had made love to her daughter, into fuch a post. This he promised, but upon these terms, that her daughter should ask him for it. The widow thanked him, and not fuspecting that any defign was covered under this offer, concluded herself sure of fuccess: but how amazed was she to find her daughter (whom she had bred in the most paffive subjection) and who had never discovered the least instance of disobedience, abfolutely refuse to ask any such favour of his Grace!

She could be prevailed upon neither by flattery, nor threatening; and continuing still ob-Vol. I. flinate

stinate in her resolution, her mother obliged her to explain herself upon the point of her refusal. She told her then, that the Duke of Montague had already made an attack upon her; that his defigns were dishonourable; and that, if the submitted to ask his Grace one favour, he would reckon himself secure of another in return, which he would endeavour to accomplish by the basest means. This explanation was too fatisfactory. Who does not fee the meanness of such an ungenerous conduct? He had made use of the mother as a tool for carrying on political defigns; he found her in diffress, and, as a recompence for her fervices, and under pretence of mending her fortune, attempted the virtue of her daughter, and would provide for her on no other terms, than at the price of her child's innocence. In the mean time, the young Corinna, a poetical name given her by Mr. Dryden, continued to improve her mind, by reading the politest authors: fuch extraordinary advances had she made, that upon her fending some poems to Mr. Dryden, entreating his perusal and impartial sentiments thereon. he was pleased to write her the following letter.

Fair Corinna,

I HAVE sent your two poems back again, after having kept them fo long from you: they were, I thought, too good to be a wo-'man's; fome of my friends, to whom I read them, were of the same opinion. It is not very gallant, I must confess, to say this of the fair fex; but, most certain it is, they ge-' nerally write with more foftness than strength. On the contrary, you want neither vigour in your thoughts, nor force in your expression, nor harmony in your numbers; and methinks, I find much of Orinda in your manner, (to whom I had the honour to be related, and also to be known); but I am so taken up with my own fludies, that I have onot leifure to descend to particulars, being, in the mean time, the fair Corinna's

Most humble, and

Most faithful fervant, and

Nov. 12, 1669. 'JOHN DRYDEN.'

Our amiable Poetes, in a letter to Dr. Talbot, Bishop of Durham, has given some farther particulars of her life. We have already seen, that she was addressed upon honourable terms by Mr. Gwynnet, of the Middle Temple, son of a gentleman in Gloucestershire. Upon

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his first discovering his passion to Corinna, she had honour enough to remonstrate to him the inequality of their fortune, as her affairs were then in a very perplexed fituation. This objection was foon furmounted by her lover, especially as his father had given him possession of the greatest part of his estate, and leave to please himself. Mr. Gwynnet no fooner obtained this, than he came to London, and claimed Corinna's promife of marriage; but her mother being then in a very weak condition, she could not abandon her, in that diffress, to die among strangers. She therefore told Mr. Gwynnet, that, as fhe had not thought fixteen years long in waiting for him, he could not think fix months long in expectation of her. He replied, with a deep figh, Six months at this time, my Corinna, is more than fixteen years have been: you put it off now, and God will ' put it off for ever.'-It proved as he had foretold; he next day went into the country, made his will, fickened and died, April the 16th, 1711, leaving his Corinna the bequest of fix hundred pounds; and adds she Sorrow has been my food ever fince.

Had she providentially married him, she had been secure from the insults of poverty; but her duty to her parent was more prevalent than

MRS. ELIZABETH THOMAS. 257 than confiderations of convenience. After the death of her lover, she was barbarously used: his brother stifled the will, which compelled her to have recourse to law; he smothered the old gentleman's conveyance deed, by which he was enabled to make a bequeft: and offered a large fum of money to any perfon who would undertake to blacken Corinna's character; but, wicked as the world is, he found none so completely abandoned, as to perjure themselves for the sake of his bribe. At last, to show her respect to the memory of her deceased lover, she consented to an accommodation with his brother, to receive two hundred pounds down, and two hundred at the year's end. The first payment was made, and distributed instantly among her mother's creditors; but when the other became due, he bid her defiance, stood fuit on his own bond, and held out four terms. He carried it from one court to another, till at last it was brought to the bar of the House of Lords; and, as that is a tribunal, where the chicanery of lawyers can have no weight, he thought proper to pay the money without a hearing. The Gentlemen of the Long Robe had made her fign an instrument, that they should receive the money, and pay themselves: after they had laid their cruel hands 235110

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